

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 15 1992

EC to recognise Croatia and Slovenia today as UN officers begin peacekeeping role

## Yugoslav war leaves a million uprooted

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ALL 12 European Community countries are expected to recognise the independence of Slovenia and Croatia today, acknowledging the disintegration of Yugoslavia after a six-month civil war that has left more than six thousand dead and uprooted a million people.

The joint decision comes the day after an advance party of military officers arrived in Serbia and Croatia to prepare the ground for a 10,000-strong UN peacekeeping force. But Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia will have to wait for recognition.

The EC move will be seen as a diplomatic triumph for Germany, which had already recognised Slovenia and Croatia but agreed to delay implementation until today while the other Community members sought guarantees on human rights, democracy and minorities. But France,

which had opposed recognition of Croatia, said: "This is not a victory for Germany, but a victory for the 12."

Joao de Deus Pinto, the foreign minister of Portugal, which holds the EC presidency, also hailed the joint decision in the face of serious doubts among diplomats over whether the Community could overcome divisions on which republics to recognise and when. Of Bosnia and Macedonia, Senator Deus Pinto said: "There are no questions that are impossible to solve, but there are some points that need to be clarified before their recognition can be implemented."

Greece has argued that Macedonia should change its name if it is to become independent. Greece's northern province is also called Macedonia and Athens fears that a neighbouring independent state of the same name could conceal future territorial claims.

An EC foreign ministers' meeting in Lisbon to consider recognition of the republics yesterday, the first military officers arrived in Yugoslavia to pave the way for the UN's "safe-haven" troops. Twenty-five officers, led by John Major, and another 12 arrived by coach in Croatia. More members of the group, drawn from 18 nations including Britain, will accompany a convoy of equipment from Italy today, creating a 50-strong advance party.

The officers, led by Colonel John Wilson from Australia, will provide communications between military headquarters of the Yugoslav army in Belgrade and Croatia's national guard in Zagreb. The unarmed officers will be stationed at 11 trouble-spots as well as the two capitals. They will not venture into frontline areas, although later armed



Force for peace: Major Abdul Hafiz, centre, from Bangladesh with his unarmed group of UN peacekeepers on arrival in Zagreb

groups of peacekeepers will go to regions where the fighting has been fiercest.

Britain is expected to contribute several hundred personnel, but will not send an infantry battalion yet. The first consignment of British troops will include soldiers skilled in logistics, transport and communications. Medical teams will also be sent. The observers now arriving include three British majors from the UN mission on the Iraq-Kuwait border.

The composition of the full peacekeeping force — the first to be deployed in mainland Europe — will depend on the recommendations of Cyrus Vance, the UN envoy to Yugoslavia, when he has received reports from the advance party. Officials expect it to be based around 4,000 infantry troops being offered by France. The force will probably move into place within the next few weeks and the Foreign Office said yesterday that it was likely to be a long-running commitment.

It was possible, therefore, that Britain might at some stage be asked to contribute combat troops. As the UN was sending military staff to the trouble areas, although later armed

zone, its refugee commission disclosed the vast human cost of the conflict. A million people had been uprooted, creating Europe's biggest refugee problem since the second world war.

Both Serbs and Croats had fled their homes, either out of fear or because they had been destroyed. Thousands had crossed the borders into Hungary, Austria, Germany and Italy, while others sought refuge in Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia. Many had been accommodated in private homes, but their hosts had thought they were offering shelter for just a short time and could no longer cope.

The refugees used ferries, tractors and any other form of transport they could find to escape the fighting, but the absence of tent cities means their plight has not attracted world attention. The impact is tremendous, Judith Kumlin, the UN's chief of mission in Belgrade, said yesterday. "We are used to seeing people coming from nothing and going to nothing, but these are middle-class Europeans. The psychological trauma for them is enormous."

Croatia mission, page 7

### Late BR to pay up

Rail passengers returning from new year holidays and excursions who arrived fuming at Exeter more than two hours late from London, were told yesterday that they will get compensation.

British Rail said it would give free travel vouchers and repay local taxi fares, together worth thousands of pounds. Page 2 Leading article, page 15

**Gorbachev job**

Mikhail Gorbachev, three weeks after being forced to resign as president of the now defunct Soviet Union, returned to work yesterday as head of a Moscow-based think-tank. Page 7

### Costly leave

A married Royal Navy helicopter observer, who smuggled a woman into his cabin on board HMS Ark Royal after going ashore at a port in Virginia, was fined £500 and severely reprimanded at a court martial hearing yesterday. Page 3

### BCCI end

The Bank of Credit and Commerce International, the world's biggest banking failure, was formally wound up at the High Court in London. Page 21 BCCI tragedy, page 25

### Extra cover

The England cricket team have called up Neil Mallender, aged 30, the Somerset bowler, as cover for the first Test match against New Zealand because of an injury to David Lawrence of Gloucestershire. Page 34

## UN doubts Iraq nuclear claims

BY JAMES BONE AND IAN MURRAY

IRAQ claimed yesterday that it had destroyed imported components for a gas centrifuge system that could have enabled it to enrich enough uranium for a nuclear bomb. But United Nations officials doubted whether all the components had been destroyed, and senior UN inspector said Iraq had acknowledged for the first time that it built a uranium-enrichment programme, suitable for the production of nuclear bombs.

Pentagon officials expressed concern that President Saddam Hussein may still have a nuclear device.

Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, said it was an "irritant" to Washington. This bout of sleeplessness comes as he is recovering from the exhaustion and stomach flu that caused his Tokyo collapse.

Jobless warning, page 9  
First hurdle, page 14  
Leading article, page 15

## Sleepless nights sap Bush

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER  
IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush's ageing body is beginning to protest. Looking pale, Mr Bush acknowledged yesterday that his 12-day trip to the Pacific rim had had a "terrible downside". He had been unable to sleep, he said, since his return last Friday.

Coming from one so proud of being in a state of perpetual motion, that was quite an admission. At the best of times Mr Bush sleeps only six hours a night, rising on weekdays at 5am. This bout of sleeplessness comes as he is recovering from the exhaustion and stomach flu that caused his Tokyo collapse.

Continued on page 2, col 1

One year on, pages 10-11

After 35 years ofALKING IN SECRET, Jimmy Porter is about to emerge from his lair. His tangs may be yellow but his bite is almost more unforgiving than in 1956, when he first started chewing up people.

Déjou, John Osborne's sequel to *Look Back in Anger*, was to open at Liverpool Playhouse in November. The production collapsed after a disagreement between the author and his leading actor, Peter O'Toole, who felt that the role of the ageing anti-hero needed cutting. But next week Faber publishes the text in all its unreconstructed ire.

Jimmy has prospered since he ran a sweet stall in Black Country obscurity. Like his creator, he now lives in some style in the shirts. Could there conceivably be parallels between his small-talk and the views of the playwright?

On his ex-wife: "Alison looked snark-

ling to me last time I saw her — with a pack of fancy friends, her from some runaway gala for Aids Concern. I don't think old Mummy would have been too happy to see her fawned over by so many strutting sodomites. The old rhino might have roared a bit."

On pop concerts: "Have you noticed how they wave, like fields of rape, limp and twitching like bleary puppies. Numb and gormless, they wave, side to side, arms stretched up, worshipping fixed eyes. Nuremberg was never so fine, so fluent."

On Britain: "I am a contraband, a young couple waiting 12 hours at the airport; I am a baggage handler on strike; I am a survey, an infrastructure, a mortgage wrapped about my inability to have an orgasm; I am a government statistic, a gymshap mother; I am a Wallman with an inalienable right to hope and happiness and rights."

On his own end: "If I am propped up

on state pillows, being cathetised and patronised, by some hell's angel of check-out mercy, young Nurse Noylene, I shall rise like some last-gasp Lazarus of a bygone smoke-filled civilisation: I shall rise from my bed of unheeding profligacy and any frowning gauleiter breathes their concern or care over my fetid and exhausted form, or any smarmy dietitian dares lay her menu of lower-middle-class mush, asking old Mr Porter what putrid filth he'd like to pass through his National Health dentures; if any of these creeping refuse collectors should refer to me as a senior citizen, they will get one last almighty smack in their sanitised mealy mouth."

Then, no doubt, Jimmy will light the very last Turkish cigarette, a malign Europe has allowed him — just like the Osborne whom readers of *The Times* letter page have come to know and love.

Come back Jimmy, page 12

Employers seeking chief executives, managers and other senior staff are advertising tomorrow in The Times' 16-page appointments section, circulated in Britain.



Osborne: unperformed play to be published

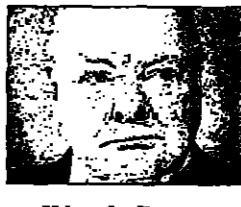
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### TODAY IN THE TIMES

#### DON'T TELL...



#### DO TELL...



#### TARRED



Letters, page 15



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## BR compensates travellers delayed by new year breakdown



Rail payout: Ken Kallis, transport chairman for Devon, at Exeter station

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

RAIL passengers returning from new year holidays and excursions, who arrived running at Exeter more than two hours late from London, were told yesterday that they will receive compensation. British Rail disclosed that it will give free travel vouchers and repay local taxi fares, together worth thousands of pounds.

The compensation, which will give a big boost to the government's proposed citizen's charter, is for passengers trapped on three trains to the West Country on January 2. The 16.15 Network SouthEast express to Exeter via Basingstoke, Andover, Salisbury and Yeovil broke down near Overton, Hampshire. Two other trains behind it were severely delayed as passengers

were diverted. BR's decision to invite claims follows a letter to Sir Bob Reid, its chairman, from Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats, who received complaints from his constituents in Yeovil, Somerset.

Mr Ashdown said: "I am very glad BR has recognised its responsibility to passengers over the horrendous problems they endured that night. The compensation will help in some way, although not everyone will realise it is available."

Geoff Penn, aged 69, a retired civil servant and chairman of Yeovil Rail Action Group, said that the route on which the delays occurred was suffering from continuing use of "completely worn out locos" and rolling stock built between 1967-8, with two million miles on the clock. BR policy to look at

individual cases and compensate is right."

BR paid £7 million compensation to passengers last year for delays and cancellations. A spokesman said: "We have a moral, if not a legal, responsibility to get people to their destinations and compensate them particularly if they miss their last train or a connection. If customers have any problems, we encourage them to write."

Tens of thousands of commuters had their rail journey home disrupted last night after a power failure at Waterloo station in London. British Rail said that the station was evacuated and closed for 50 minutes just before the start of the peak rush hour due to "a high voltage feeder cable failure".

Leading article, page 15

### Minister hails reform of NHS

Continued from page 1  
November last year. The number waiting for two years fell by 35 per cent to 32,810 in the same period. Only one region, Trent, showed a rise - of 7 per cent - in the number of patients waiting more than a year. Mr Waldegrave was confident that the remaining patients on two-year lists would be treated by April this year, when the two-year maximum guarantee promised in the patient's charter takes effect.

The report from the NHS management executive had "confounded the sceptics" who had said that the reforms would never work. "In fact they are working and working well: delivering real benefits to patients and increasingly attracting the loyalty, as well as the commitment, of staff," he said.

Duncan Nichol, the NHS chief executive, admitted yesterday that he had intervened a number of times to "act as broker" between regions, districts and hospitals to ensure that funds totalling more than £200 million, between 0.5 and 1 per cent of the NHS hospital budget, were rapidly allocated to places which were running into difficulties after treating more patients than agreed.

Mr Nichol maintained yesterday that the reserve funds would be sufficient to ensure that all hospitals would balance their books by the end of the year. "This is the first year for many years that this can be said," he said. "To be able to treat many more patients while remaining on target financially is a considerable achievement. It shows that NHS staff at all levels have reacted well to the introduction of the reforms and are making them work."

Robin Cook, the Labour health spokesman, immediately disputed Mr Waldegrave's claims that the reforms had led to record treatment levels. Mr Cook produced figures from two years ago that showed similar increases in patient activity. His figures, which were not disputed by Mr Nichol, showed that the number of inpatients treated rose by 1.3 per cent in 1989-90, compared with a projected 1.5 per cent this year.

The British Medical Association was also unimpressed by the report, saying that it "makes no attempt to show whether the increases are reflected equally in trust and non-trust hospitals".

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## Sell-off may divide coalfields between two companies

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S coal industry could be sold off to two companies, one amalgamating the Scottish and Yorkshire coalfields and the other the Welsh and Nottinghamshire pits.

The proposal has emerged in Whitehall as one of the options for the privatisation of the industry, a central plank of the next Conservative election manifesto. John Wakeham, the energy secretary, who will leave the Commons at the general election, has already made plain that he will leave the decision on how the industry will be broken up to his successor.

### Labour will push rail investment

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail will be told to go ahead with investment schemes worth hundreds of millions if Labour gets in at the next election, John Prescott, the party's transport spokesman, said yesterday.

The schemes, which have all been frozen by the government because of the recession, include £127 million of new rolling stock for Network SouthEast's Kent line, £250 million for the Thameslink project to improve journeys between north and south London, and £140 million for Ashford international station to accompany the opening of the Channel tunnel in 1993.

Labour's approval of the schemes was given in a letter that Mr Prescott sent Sir Bob Reid, the BR chairman, which outlined the party's rail investment plans should it win the general election.

The letter also told Sir Bob that he would be expected to halt all preparatory work aimed at privatising the railways, while a new framework for railway funding was

foreign coal means that British Coal will be forced to offer competitive prices to the generators. They foresee reductions for industrial and domestic users of 3 to 5 per cent, or more than 5 per cent if they are concentrated purely on domestic consumers.

By the time British Coal is sold, some three years into the next parliament if the Conservatives win the election, it will be further slimmed down because of the new demands on it to be competitive resulting from the contract negotiations.

As a result they expect it to be an attractive proposition for buyers, particularly as the government will be taking over the obligation of paying the pensions of workers who have already left the industry and subsidence claims resulting from the days when the industry was in the public sector. "It will be a clean purchase," one senior minister said yesterday.

It is clear that three main options are emerging from studies being conducted within the energy department.

One is for British Coal to be sold off as one large business; the second is for a British Coal with separate Welsh and Scottish subsidiaries; and the third is for the industry to be split into two, with the Scottish and Yorkshire coalfields in one company, and the Nottinghamshire and Welsh in another.

Senior ministers say that the electricity privatisation means that the coal industry will be compelled to offer a competitive deal for the new contract, which starts in April 1993.

Foreign imports have steadily increased through the Eighties. In 1987 Britain imported 9.9 million tonnes; last year the figure was 16.9 million tonnes. With 80 per cent of British Coal's output going to the generators the industry may have to reduce its prices if it is to beat off the foreign competition.

### Journalists seek injunction on pension deductions

By TIM JONES

JOURNALISTS at the *Daily Mirror* are to seek a high court injunction preventing any part of their salary being deducted by the company into the group occupational pension scheme.

The move, by the Mirror's National Union of Journalists branch, comes after the disclosure by the new trustees of the pension scheme that there would be no money for group workers and former employees with deferred pension rights unless some £400 million plundered by Robert Maxwell can be recovered.

Since learning the news from a bulletin posted on a blackboard in the foyer of the Mirror's Holborn Circus office, the newspaper has been thrown into turmoil as staff

try to come to terms with the prospect of retirement without a pension. Some workers who have served the paper for 20 years stand to lose more than £80,000.

Yesterday, as they produced their newspaper, the journalists fell into two camps, the pessimists who said that at a late time in life they would have to start all over again and the optimists who expressed faith that the proposed management buyout would repair the damage.

The optimists swapped photocopies of a *Financial Times* report which said that the true deficit was only £250 million which could be put right over a number of years.

Terry Pattison, the paper's industrial editor,

said: "My dreams of retiring when I was about 60 have vanished into thin air. I have been on the Mirror for more than 16 years and estimate I must have lost about £50,000 from the pension fund. It is quite a shock to realise I have been putting money into a holed bucket which was itself going over Niagara falls."

"We are considering court action to prevent the company from deducting from our salaries 6 per cent every month."

Another senior Mirror journalist said: "I am sure everything will be alright. The Mirror has always looked after its own people."

No right to silence, page 14



What's up, cop? Traffic policeman Steve Heningham alongside Bugs Bunny and a toy Volkswagen Beetle at the Harrogate International Toy Fair yesterday. The fair, which closes tomorrow, attracted 600 companies.

### 'Private' legal aid urged

By FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government should provide legal aid for people to pursue disputes before private mediators because the courts are no longer adequate, the Adam Smith Institute says today. They are inefficient, overcrowded and the time has come to develop private ways of resolving civil disputes which will be speedier and cheaper, it says in a report.

The institute calls for the Government to back the development of "alternative dispute resolution", or ADR, which it says gives the public service it demands in the private sector.

ADR, in which parties take their dispute before a private mediator, is just starting in Britain, the report says.

In America however the practice can resolve disputes in six months instead of the usual two years of public court time. Costs are also much lower.

Yesterday the Lord Chancellor's department said officials were still considering the subject. The Lord Chancellor has on occasions suggested that alternative ways of settling disputes should be examined.

*"Judgement Day - The Case for Alternative Dispute Resolution" by Adam Thierer. From the Adam Smith Institute, 23 Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BL. £17.*

Leading article, page 15

### Judges shun local consultative role

JUDGES are refusing to participate at a local level with the government's initiative on the criminal justice system (Frances Gibb and Richard Ford write).

The criminal justice consultative council, which holds its first meeting at the Home Office today, was a key proposal of Lord Justice Woolf in his 1990 report on prison riots.

The council is intended to be a national forum bringing together for the first time all the parts of the criminal justice system and to promote better understanding, co-operation and co-ordination.

It had been hoped in some official quarters that a senior judge would chair the committee but that position will be taken by the permanent

judge, Richard Ford.

While acknowledging judicial independence, the Home Office argues that the government would benefit from the expertise of the judiciary.

### Marquess 'too ill for court'

The Marquess of Bristol failed to attend court to answer four drug charges at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, yesterday because his barrister said later, he was being treated at a London clinic for a drug related condition.

Lord Bristol, aged 37, of Ickworth Park, Hertfordshire, was accused of two offences of possessing drugs and a further two of possession with intent to supply.

The case was adjourned for a month while Lord Bristol would be fit to attend. Bail was renewed.

### Anti-Nazi group relaunched



The Anti-Nazi League was relaunched at the House of Commons yesterday amid warnings that followers of Adolf Hitler were making significant advances again in Europe.

Peter Hain, above, Labour MP for Neath, a founder of the organisation in the late 1970s, said that the relaunch was set off by the revival of the British National Party and its plans to field more than 50 candidates in the next election, the rise of Nazi and right-wing extremist activity in Europe and the increase in racial attacks in Britain.

## CORRECTION

Our Review of 1991 published on 28 December misquoted Gerald Ratner's comment to the Institute of Directors in April. He did not say that Ratner's Group's profits came from selling people what they wanted: "Total crap". That description was lightheartedly reserved for one gift item and not to the jewellery or any other item sold by Ratner. We apologise to Gerald Ratner.

## Crown jewels will be given a more luxurious setting

By ALAN HAMILTON

SO MANY visitors want to see the crown jewels, the world's most valuable set of rocks, that they are to be moved from their subterranean strongroom in the Tower of London to a location more able to handle the crowds.

Such are the queues to catch a glimpse of the Imperial state crown and the other regalia, and so bad the tempers in the crawling crocodile that shuffles past the display in its dimly-lit basement, that the Historic Royal Palaces Agency, which

runs the tower, has appointed consultants and an architect to design a better setting.

Colonel Hamish Mackinlay, deputy governor of the tower, said yesterday that the Jewel House, where the regalia has been displayed since 1967, had been designed to handle up to 8,000 visitors a day, but that numbers were regularly double that. In 1990 the tower, the most popular paid attraction in Britain, handled 2.3 million visitors. Because of the Gulf war and other factors, numbers fell during 1991 to 1.9 million, but

business was expected to recover and to expand.

The most likely location for a new display was on the ground floor of the Waterloo block of the tower, Col Mackinlay said. "The present Jewel House was a great design in its time, but it has become overloaded."

At present visitors face long queues to enter the Jewel House, before joining a slow procession which offers little opportunity to study the jewels at length. Visitors may leave the queue and stand in a gallery at the rear, but the displays

are then too far away to be seen in detail. "One of the problems is that the warders have to keep people on the move all the time; this can lead to friction," Col Mackinlay said.

Before the Jewel House was built the display was housed in the nearby Wakefield Tower, but the ever-increasing number of visitors, who now pay £6 a head to see all the tower's attractions, made a move essential. Revenue from admissions is estimated at more than £11.5 million a year.

The tower hopes to have the jewels on display in their new home

in the spring of 1994. Until then they will remain on show as normal, except for the traditional four-week closure in January when they are cleaned and maintained.

Moving the jewels, which are too valuable to be insured, has raised fears for their security, but only one thief has ever got his hands on them. In 1971 Captain Blood, an Irish rogue, made off with them, but he had not got more than a few yards when he was apprehended and tackled, and the crown of England went rolling ignominiously down the gutter of a City street.

# Woman attacked as rapist on prison leave fails to return

By PAUL WILKINSON

**CONVICTED** rapist with a history of sexual assaults on women has failed to return to Leyhill open prison, near Bristol, after a weekend on home leave.

Avon and Somerset police took the unusual step yesterday of naming Trevor Hanson, aged 47, after a young woman was attacked at knifepoint in Bristol on Monday evening. Hanson, from Halifax, West Yorkshire, was serving a life sentence imposed 20 years ago for raping a girl aged 18 near Leeds.

The search for Hanson began after an attack on the woman, aged 23, in a car park adjoining the Holiday Inn in central Bristol. She was returning to her car when a man spoke to her.

She became suspicious and tried to get into the car but the man grabbed her by the throat, pushed her into the car, produced a table knife



Hanson: police say that he is dangerous

and threatened to kill her. Detective Constable Sean Dunne, who praised the woman for fighting back, said that she "struggled, shouted, screamed and hollered. She did really well and a man came running to her aid. Her attacker made off."

He said that the police

wished to interview Hanson because of fears for public safety. "We consider he is very dangerous."

Hanson is white, with cropped greying brown hair. He is medium build and has a day's growth of beard. He was wearing faded blue jeans, a pale blue cotton anorak and soft-soled shoes.

Nick Wall, the governor of Leyhill, declined to comment on individual cases. He said: "A number of prisoners are allowed on home leave up to six times a year provided they meet certain criteria. All prisoners who come to Leyhill have been vetted as suitable for open conditions."

Dawn Primarolo, Labour MP for Bristol South, has written to Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, asking why Hanson was allowed home visits. "Several extremely serious questions need to be asked," she said. "Why was this man put in an open prison in the first place?"

Jonathan Sargeant, Conservative MP for Bristol East, said: "To allow this man out was a mistake, an error of judgment by the prison authorities. He was jailed for life and he should be kept in jail for life."

The Home Office said that Hanson was on three-days home leave and was due to return to the prison on Monday evening. "He failed to return and is now posted as unlawfully at large."

Hanson has a history of sex attacks in Yorkshire, including one on a schoolgirl aged 15. In the late 1960s and early 1970s he carried out a series of attacks in and around Huddersfield. He repeatedly struck within weeks of being released from prison after serving sentences for attempted rape and robbery with violence.

At his trial at Leeds Crown Court in January 1971, he admitted the rape and another charge of attempted rape and indecent assault. The court was told he had three previous convictions involving women.

Mr Leonard said that while Mr Bellamy was investigating the death of Anne Domelow, accidentally spurned, he also stole stamps from her collection and more than £400 of her pension savings.

During his search, he opened a fringe in the woman's bedsheet room in Hampstead, north London, and offered other officers a chocolate, saying: "It will only go on."

Mr Bellamy, of Chalk Farm, north London, denies stealing the book from the estate of Kenneth Williams in 1983 and two charges of theft from the estate of Miss Domelow in August 1990.

The trial continues today.



Life line: Helen Bennett, a nurse at St Thomas' Hospital, south London, with ten-day-old Rebecca Hobbs, who weighs 3lb 7oz. The hospital yesterday started a £5 million campaign to fund research into premature birth.

Speaking at the launch, the Duchess of York, whose obstetrician, Anthony Kenney, is a consultant at the hospital, said: "Too many babies' first experience of life is an incubator and we would like to change this by concentrated re-

search." She said that the campaign, which has as its mascot a streetwise baby named Tommy, is based on people having fun, which is the particular element which appeals to me.

Campaign organisers will ask people around Britain to hold "party" fund-raising events. Dennis the Menace has also been enlisted for the cause, which aims to collect £3.5 million for The Baby Fund Research Trust and £1.5 million to improve mother and baby facilities at St Thomas'. The duchess

met Freddie Simon, aged five months, who spent the first three weeks of his life in an incubator at the hospital.

As he slept peacefully on her shoulder, his mother, Georgina, said her first baby had been stillborn and that Freddie had been born by Caesarean section when a scan showed that he had stopped growing at 32 weeks.

Nigel Havers and Maureen Lipman, the actors, and politicians were also at the launch.

## Stevens will cut heritage red tape

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

**JOCELYN** Stevens, who takes over the chairmanship of English Heritage on April 1, has indicated that he will initiate a radical overhaul of the organisation, which he sees as inefficient, bureaucratic, not bold enough and overstuffed.

Mr Stevens is rector of the Royal College of Art, where he has transformed the campus and the academic structure. Before he leaves at the end of the summer term, its new £12 million building is to be opened and called the Stevens Building.

He says that the 1,700 English Heritage staff based in London should move to the regions. Money which should be spent on protecting the heritage is being wasted on high West End rents.

Even the English Heritage logo of a crenellated tower will be under threat because it suggests an unapproachable nature, he says. "The image is a very forbidding one, and English Heritage has to be accessible, reaching out, looking as if it really cares about the heritage and protecting it. Instead it's got a reputation for blocking things."

English Heritage, whose

formal title is the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England, was set up in 1983 as a free-standing part of the environment department. In 1986 it took over the responsibilities for historic buildings from the abolished metropolitan county authorities, and this year will help to fund cathedral maintenance.

Since its foundation, it has been chaired by Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, founder of the National Motor Museum in Hampshire. Mr Stevens said: "Edward Montagu has battled hard and valiantly, but he has been fighting against a bureaucracy which spends most of its time producing paper for still more committees. There is a civil service attitude which is about looking after one's own position, and that will have to go."

Mr Stevens said that he would not champion preservation against progress. He plans an exhibition at the Royal College of Art which will question the wisdom of protecting sites which may not be unique at the cost of development and innovation.

Interview, page 12

## Benidorm ends chimpanzee abuse

By HARVEY ELLIOTT  
TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

**ENLIGHTENED** self-interest has finally persuaded the local council in Benidorm to join the long-running campaign to rid Spanish holiday resorts of drug-befuddled chimpanzees owned by beach photographers by passing a law enabling police to confiscate the animals.

The town has long turned a blind eye to the use of animals as photographers' props, but it has found that, with the Olympic Games coming to Barcelona and Expo to Seville this year, it could no longer afford to ignore the growing pressure of world opinion. So far, however, Benidorm is the only city or town to have passed a specific law against the exploitation of animals, with most of Spain remaining apparently bemused at the concern shown by Britain.

Spain argues that such laws could put many of their most popular local

characters out of business. The Spanish government managed to persuade the European Commission to drop a planned court case which would have condemned it for failing to impose international regulations governing the commercial exploitation of endangered species.

Cyril Rosen, of the International Primate Protection League, which has campaigned for 14 years against alleged Spanish indifference to the feelings or welfare of animals, was both pleased and cynical about the move. "It is about time someone took some action," he said. "The Spanish government managed to persuade the EC that they were doing their best to stop the exploitation of animals such as chimpanzees. They said they had confiscated 30 since 1986, but we know that today at least 150 are being used regularly throughout Spain."

"We will now be renewing our campaign to get British tourists to act as monitors and tell us whenever they see

chimpanzees, or any animal for that matter, being used for commercial gain."

The World Wide Fund for Nature is also stepping up its pressure on the Spanish government through brochures distributed among tour operators. "It is illegal to use an imported animal for commercial gain," a fund official said. "They are ignoring these rules even though they are signatories to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species."

"They managed to persuade the European Commission to drop the case against them and we must now rely on public pressure and the activities of the occasional enlightened community, such as Benidorm, to stamp out this awful practice."

Chimpanzees, imported illegally from Africa, are often drugged by their photographer handlers, have their teeth removed so that they cannot bite, are dressed in children's clothes and beaten to keep them submissive.

## Connery sues over 'coward' report

**JASON** Connery, the actor, yesterday asked a High Court jury in London to award him damages over a newspaper report that called him a coward who would rather kill himself than fight for his country.

The story about the son of the actor Sean Connery appeared on his 28th birthday, January 11 last year, the eve of the Gulf war.

Mr Connery, of King's Road, Chelsea, west London, listened as his counsel, George Carman, QC, told Mr Justice Drake that the story in *The Sun* headlined "I couldn't fight in Gulf says son" caused him "enormous distress".

Mr Connery, who has

## Navy flier smuggled woman aboard

A MARRIED Royal Navy helicopter observer who smuggled a woman into his cabin aboard HMS Ark Royal after going ashore at a north American port was fined £500 and severely reprimanded at a court martial yesterday.

Lieutenant Stephen Birne, aged 30, finally admitted the truth to officers after a two-and-a-half hour search of the ship in Mayport, Virginia. Lieutenant Commander Peter Crabtree, for the prosecution, told the hearing in Plymouth, Devon.

In a statement Lt Birne, of the 820 Naval Air Squadron, admitted that he brought the woman aboard and that she had stayed in his cabin, but he denied having sex with her, although he got on the bed in his boxer shorts and she got on the bed as well, said Lieutenant Commander Penny Melville-Brown, for the defence. They had chatted and smoked.

When searching officers opened the cabin door the girl was "obscured by him", the hearing was told. In a panic he denied having a girl aboard.

Lt Birne, married with three children, pleaded guilty to having a civilian woman on board without reasonable excuse, and to two charges of lying to an officer who questioned him during the search.

Lieutenant Commander Melville-Brown said that Birne and friends had met some girls in a bar and Birne had gone to another bar with one of them.

The story also said that his father had served in the Royal Navy. Mr Carman said that one of the article's libellous meanings was that Jason Connery was prepared to undermine the morale of the young men in the Gulf and their families.

"We say it is a deliberate, nasty and vicious attack on a young man's character. It was designed to contrast him with his father, who had indeed served in the RN, to point out he had played heroic roles, and to cause him maximum injury and distress at a time when war was about to break out."

Kevin Mackenzie, the editor of *The Sun*, publishers News Group Newspapers, and journalists Andrew Coulson and Lesley Ann Jones, all deny libel. The hearing continues today.

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## Heritage lost in rape of churches

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THIEVES are sacking churches in one of the greatest rapes of Britain's heritage since the Reformation. Church of England clergy were told yesterday. One in four churches in London can expect to be burgled this year and churches throughout the country can expect to lose irreplaceable chalices, carvings, statues and even pews, a seminar on church security was told.

Colin Coxall, assistant commissioner with the City of London police, called for a strategy to tackle the thefts and vandalism. "There are well-established markets for items of value from churches, accompanied by a world increase in prices. The best results can be achieved by involving the church, the police and the community at large."

Insurance claims for arson, theft and malicious damage increased from 5,500 in 1990 to 6,500 last year. The Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, which insures more than 95 per cent of Anglican churches, expects to receive 8,000 claims this year. Of last

year's claims, more than 3,000 involved thefts of over £1.5 million.

Bob Johnson, the group's metropolitan surveyor, said that professional gangs were targeting oak furniture, paintings, coats of arms, computers and anything which could be adapted for secular use. "In some cases there is literally nothing left to steal." At St Botolph's, Aldgate, in the City, a 4ft Victorian cast iron cherub and plinth was taken from the forecourt in November and antiques worth more than £2,000 were taken from St Michael's, Wandsworth Common, southwest London.

The Ven George Cassidy, Archdeacon of London, said: "Many people, especially young people, still feel the church is a symbol of authority. Frustration can show itself by an attack on authority."

Sgt Alan Walker, of Staffordshire police, said: "We are responsible for our heritage for future generations. In 200 years, someone is going to be asking why someone did not do something."



Mourning losses: the Rev Andrew Horton, of St Michael's church, Wandsworth Common, which has lost antiques worth more than £2,000

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## Nursing and residential care practice

### Homes 'drug and shackle' elderly

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE USE of pindown tactics to restrain elderly people has turned residential and nursing homes into "prisons in suburbia", says a report published yesterday.

Old people are routinely being locked up, shackled and drugged by staff to make them easier to look after in homes which charge £200 to £400 a week, it says. Some are strapped into their chairs or barricaded in tight spaces and left for hours at a time.

The report, by Counsel and Care, an independent advisory group for the elderly, says that many old people are restrained to a degree which unacceptably limits their freedom. So many homes keep their front doors permanently locked that they are "little prisons in suburbia".

Jef Smith, the group's general manager, said: "We have heard of people tied to lavatories and left for some minutes or, on occasion, some hours before someone comes to check them. Tying older

people into beds or chairs is still practised. It should be outlawed. We wouldn't permit it for prisoners. We feel it is outrageous that it should be used for frail old people."

The charity, which visits 800 private and voluntary homes in London every year, says that there is widespread use of sedatives and that some homes monitor residents with intercoms and video cameras. Many use chains with tables that lock across the occupant's laps, and beds with raised cot sides or bedding that can be zipped up.

The report calls on the government to issue clearer guidelines on what forms of restraint are permissible. "If a home has a busy mad outside, and a client liable to wander, there is a real dilemma," Mr Smith said. "We accept that some restraint is needed but that physical forms should be outlawed."

Often relatives are concerned about the risk of injury and start then resort to unacceptable methods to protect the elderly from harm. "It is significant that the Department of Health rushed through guidelines about what staff could and couldn't do concerning young people," Mr Smith said. "We need similar guidelines for elderly people."

He said that "a very wide

swath of nursing and residential homes" used some form of restraint, although no formal survey of its extent had been done. The problem was endemic to residential care, affecting private and local authority homes equally. "It is becoming more of an issue as the people admitted to residential care become more vulnerable," he said. The average age of residents was in the nineties and rising.

Good practice required high staffing levels, a high level of vigilance and care plans to be agreed with relatives spelling out acceptable risks, he said.

But there is a cost. At Compton Lodge, a home run by Hampstead Old People's Housing Trust, emphasis is placed on preserving residents' freedom and relatives are given guidance notes on safety. "We try to maintain high staffing, but our fees tend to be on the high side," Sue Martin, the manager, said. At £291 a week, the fees are £30 a week higher than other voluntary homes and at least £30 a week higher than income support levels.

*What if they hurt themselves? Counsel and Care, Twyman House, 16 Bonny Street, London NW1 9PG; £15*

Letters, page 15

### Staff in dilemma over treatment

THE dilemma facing staff at homes for elderly people was underlined for a training officer with a care and counselling charity when she encountered a resident at a south London home (Jeremy Lauance writes).

"She was a woman in her seventies and she was tied to a chair with a bandage round her waist and another round her ankles. She had been there all morning and there was nothing in the room, not even a TV. She was rocking her chair trying to get out."

Elizabeth Rickaby, of Counsel and Care, was making the charity's annual visit to the home when she saw the woman in a second floor bedroom. "The staff explained that she was confused and liable to wander and they were afraid she might fall down the stairs. She was waiting for a ground floor room. But if she had rocked her chair over, that would have been even more dangerous. If she wanted to go to the loo, she had to bang on the floor. The home was short staffed and that is how they were coping."

Homes use a variety of techniques to control their residents. Some are subtle, including overheating rooms to induce drowsiness. Others rely on repeat sedatives. In one home an elderly man was kept in his pyjamas to prevent him from leaving the building. Another installed video cameras to spy on residents — until an inspector from the local authority ordered their removal.

Sometimes relatives disagree about the degree of freedom that should be allowed. A social worker visiting her mother, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease, found her asleep, face down in her meal, after she was given drugs to stop her wandering. The front door was locked and she was hemmed in by heavy pine tables to prevent her from getting out of her chair.

The social worker complained that she would like staff to regard her mother's efforts to leave the room "as a sign that she would like to go for a walk". However, her father approved of the restraints because he feared that his wife would injure herself.

### Smoking ban nurse resigned

By KERRY GILL

A NURSE who smokes 30 cigarettes a day was driven "demented" after Greater Glasgow Health Board banned smoking at all its premises; an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

May Dryden, aged 63, resorted to snatching an illicit puff in the hospital toilets after the ban began last July. On July 5, in spite of being urged by her superior to reconsider, she resigned.

Miss Dryden, who said that she had tried acupuncture and hypnotherapy to give up, told the tribunal that she was constructively dismissed from her job at the city's Western Infirmary.

She said that she was "stunned and unbelieving" when she learned of the ruling, delivered as a message in her pay packet. She hoped that it would be forgotten. Previously smokers had been able to smoke in a section of the canteen or in a special room during a morning tea break. The new policy meant that she would have had to smoke in the street, something she never did, and, as she worked in the area, would have had no time to change her clothes.

The health board said that all interested parties were consulted and an overwhelming majority of those who responded agreed with the ban.

The tribunal will give its decision later.

### Circus chief had cocaine

Gerry Cottle, the circus head, was fined £500 by magistrates at Chertsey, Surrey, yesterday for possessing cocaine. The court was told that Cottle, aged 46, of Addlestone, Surrey, had 13.2 grammes hidden in his car when he was stopped by police last July.

Cottle said that he had started taking the drug to combat stress. Anthony Brigden, his solicitor, said: "Mr Cottle is extremely embarrassed by what has happened. It will never happen again."

Cottle, who attended the same school in Wimbledon as John Major, started his circus career as a clown, stilt walker and fire-eater.

### Gun threats

A man who threatened police with an air rifle and a pistol was overpowered by unarmed officers in Andover, Hampshire. No shots were fired but two officers were injured in the struggle.

### Explosive alert

The A30 at Honiton, Devon, was sealed off after a van carrying about a ton of explosive crashed into a hedge and turned onto its side.

### Ferret attack

Nikkola Jackson, aged four months, of Stapleford, Nottinghamshire, was treated for cuts and blues to her face after being attacked in her pram by an escaped ferret.

### Pigsty listed

A former pigsty at Zennor, Cornwall, has been declared a Grade II listed building.

Defence debate told of Soviet dangers

## King wields nuclear shield

By PETER MULLEGAN AND JOHN WINDER

BRITAIN should keep up its nuclear guard because of the chaotic state of the armed forces in the former Soviet republics, Tom King, the defence secretary, said last night.

Mr King also used a Commons debate on defence to accuse Labour of "being split from top to bottom" on the issue of keeping nuclear weapons. He challenged Labour's defence policy as he painted a "bleak picture" of uncertainty over the control of nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union. In a direct thrust at Neil Kinnock, Mr King said he "despised" those who pretended they were no longer CND members or who had allowed their membership to lapse.

In the former Soviet Union there was a "dangerously explosive mix" of factors and a sense of alienation and desperation among the armed forces. There were 3,000 nuclear scientists who could help other countries to develop weapons, and at least one group had not been paid in December. Control and responsibility for them appeared to have broken down. "The risk of proliferation in this way has never been greater," he said. "There was evidence that other countries were 'extremely active' in trying



Kaufman: "Labour will take lead on defence"

would be imprudent for Britain to lift its nuclear shield. The end of the Soviet empire brought dangers as well as opportunities. Mr Major said: "and we have to be prepared for both."

Mr King said the newly independent Soviet states faced a virtual collapse in conscription. Conscripts who were unsure whether they would be paid, fed or housed. About 400,000 troops were living either in tents or in corners of barrack rooms".

## Boost in voluntary sector pledged

By PHILIP WEBSTER  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR would appoint a minister to co-ordinate the activities of the voluntary sector across Whitehall, David Blunkett, the shadow local government minister, promised yesterday.

He said a Labour government would provide an insurance role for voluntary organisations in its employment, training and other economic policies.

Mr Blunkett was referring to Labour's approach to the voluntary sector in a new document, *Building Bridges*, which follows a two-year consultation exercise across Britain. The document describes the voluntary sector as being at the heart of Labour's belief in citizenship and giving power to the community. It says the party expects and welcomes a greater role for the voluntary sector in shaping the society of the future. "But this role brings with it responsibilities—especially where it is linked to the extension of grant aid from central or local government."

The task of repairing the damage wrought over 13 years cannot be repaired quickly, and some of our commitments may take at least the lifetime of a Parliament."

Mr Blunkett said the dominant theme of Labour's approach was involving service users as much as possible in the delivery of services. "This contrasts sharply with the Citizen's Charter."

## Part-timers

Twenty-five per cent of the British workforce—6,491,000 people—were working part-time last June, the latest date for which figures are available. Michael Howard, the employment secretary, said at question time:

**On tour**

An estimated 18.3 million overseas visitors are expected in the United Kingdom this year, spending around £8 billion.

Eric Forth, the junior employment minister, told MPs at question time:

**Parliament today**

Commons (2.30): Questions: Trade and Industry, Coal industry bill, remaining stages. Motions on stamp duty.

Lords (2.30): Debates on the construction industry and Channel tunnel rail links in the Southeast.

If you need to ask,  
can you afford it?

By PHILIP WEBSTER

THE average cost of answering each of the 32,000 questions tabled by MPs to ministers last year was £50. The Commons was told last night. The cost to the taxpayer was some £1.6 million.

The Treasury said the maximum limit for answering a question was going up to £400, eight times higher than the average. Some cost a lot less, and some considerably more.

If civil servants consider the £400 limit is going to be exceeded they are required to refer the matter to ministers who can refuse to answer on the grounds of disproportionate cost.

The average cost of an



Blunkett: shaping the society of the future

answering question has gone up, since 1988, from £33. Since then the maximum spending limit on satisfying the curiosity of MPs has been £250.

A recent league table—supplied of course in a written answer—showed Paul Flynn, the Labour MP for Newport West, as the most prolific recipient of answers, with 928 received.

Mr Flynn was followed by Martin Redmond, Labour MP for Don Valley, with 646; Frank Dobson, the shadow energy secretary, with 593; Rhodri Morgan, Labour MP for Cardiff West with 560; and Harry Cohen, MP for Leyton, with 527.

Disputes between the republics over the custody of nuclear weapons continued, while links had been cut between certain military units and their headquarters. Tactical nuclear weapons were located in 13 of the former republics. Although efforts had been made to move these to Russia by July, some were under the control of elements whose morale was "extremely dubious".

Mr King said that even if promises to reduce weapons over the next ten years were made, the republics would still have 20 times more warheads than Britain. The West could not guarantee success in its efforts for a smooth transition. "To be blunt, we do not have a single idea who might be in control in ten years. We do not even have a good idea or any confidence what might be in control in ten weeks from now."

Mr King taunted Labour over its changes on defence policy and said that 16 out of 22 of the shadow cabinet had anti-nuclear backgrounds.

Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, said that Mr King had stood

on his head on nuclear matters and turned a public somerset.

"This is a government which not only changes its mind on what it regards as basic nuclear defence issues but does not even understand what to do with the nuclear weapons it possesses or seeks to retain. This government cannot be relied on to take the lead in international nuclear arms control discussions, but the Labour government soon to be elected will certainly take that lead."

The nuclear non-proliferation treaty must be extended and the former Soviet republics persuaded to sign it. "Any nation that refuses to sign must not be allowed to buy any nuclear materials at all, even if they are for professedly peaceful purposes," Mr Kaufman said.

The government was bereft of ideas on the problems, and was nostalgic for the Cold War, and could only mouth its slogan, he said. "Whenever the Tories know that they are facing electoral defeat, they dive head first into the political sewer."

Gorbachev role, page 7



Gorbachev role, page 7

## Labour refuses to turn back the clock for unions

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A LABOUR government would not reinstate the trade union immunities and privileges of the 1970s, the leadership pledged yesterday as it braced itself for the another wave in the Conservative pre-election campaign.

Tony Blair, the shadow employment secretary, mounted a pre-emptive strike against the planned Tory onslaught by portraying ministers as relics of a bygone age, constantly fighting old battles.

In a forceful statement of Labour's revised stance on industrial relations, which risked alienating left-wing union leaders, Mr Blair said: "No doubt over the coming weeks, after the nonsense on tax and defence, our political opponents will next say Labour will return to the industrial relations law of the Seventies. That is false. There is no turning the clock back; there will be no wholesale repeal of the existing trade union legislation.

"For example, ballots before strikes, ballots for union

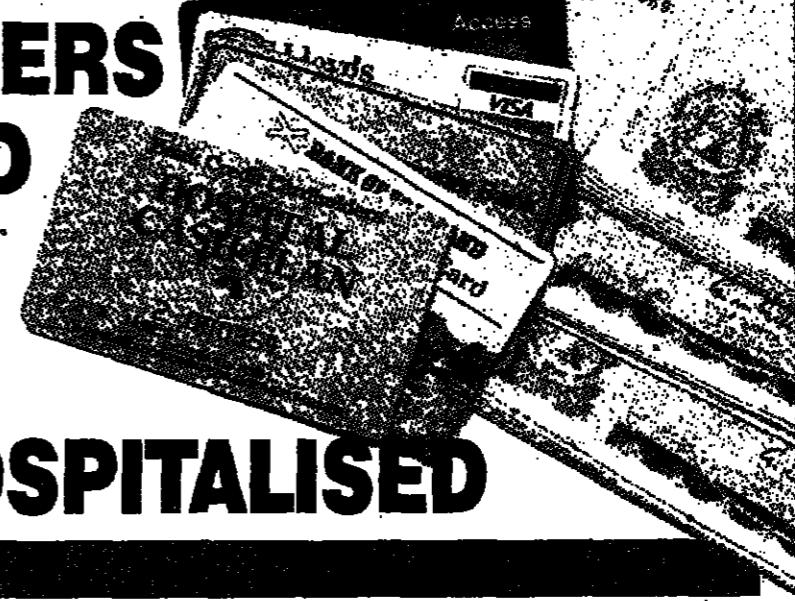
elections, restrictions on mass picketing, will stay. Like companies, unions will be subject to proper legal regulation. Like companies, they will be entitled to fairness within the law, not favours outside it."

"But there can be no group of people outside the cabinet that truly believe that the future of Britain in the Nineties will be seriously decided by re-running the debates of the Seventies," Mr Blair told a conference in London.

Tory election strategists are planning to turn their fire on Labour's trade union proposals the week after next, after a renewed assault on the Opposition's public spending plans. Ministers will argue that Labour and the unions are "thick as thieves", pointing out that 90 per cent of the votes at the party's conferences are cast by the unions and that three-quarters of its money comes from union sources. They will also highlight the fact that most of the shadow cabinet are sponsored by unions.

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40-49	£12.00	£22.00	£30.00
50-59	£18.00	£32.00	£44.00
60-69	£28.00	£48.00	N/A
70-74	£47.00	£79.00	N/A

MONTHLY RATES

AGE LAST BIRTHDAY	INDIVIDUAL ONLY	INDIVIDUAL & SPOUSE	INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY
Under 40	£4.95	£7.95	£11.50
40-49	£6.50	£11.50	£15.50
50-59	£9.50	£16.50	£22.50
60-69	£14.50	£24.50	N/A
70-74	£24.00	£40.00	N/A

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## Police change line on family violence

THE Law Commission's report yesterday on rape within marriage is fresh evidence of the growing if belated recognition by police and lawyers that domestic bliss can be an illusion for women. The latest British Crime Survey estimated that there were over 400,000 domestic assaults on women in 1987 — a quarter of all assaults.

The Metropolitan Police claims to have led forces in Britain in striving over the past five years to change police culture, actively investigate offences and counsel victims with a network of domestic violence units.

All new detectives under training are now taught that they must treat the problem of domestic violence seriously. All officers must now detail any call to which they respond and a report of "no cause for police action" will no longer be accepted as an adequate response.

This week, as Scotland Yard opens its second domestic violence unit, in northeast London, the commission's report will be studied closely, not least by Inspector Shirley Tulloch,

**Stewart Tendler**  
reports on how  
Scotland Yard fights  
trouble at home

who co-ordinates the policy and work of the units. Later this year a Yard working party will review progress in London to date against the background of a continually rising call for help from women.

Inspector Tulloch said yesterday that there had been a dramatic change in the treatment of domestic cases and serious cases had led to heavy sentences. Units were finding increases in their workloads as assaults increased, possibly because of the stresses families are placed under including today's economic pressures.

Rape within marriage remains a very small portion of complaints. Most cases have involved couples living apart and allegations of rape involving a cohabiting couple were very difficult to investigate. But, she said, the number of reported cases might increase as women grow more confident that the police

will listen to their complaints and rape within marriage will feature on the agenda of the working party.

Since the formation of the first units recorded offences of domestic violence in London have risen from 2,300 in 1987 to 5,100 last year. Whether the figures represent a real increase in wife battering is debatable. Police accept that a major reason for the growth lies in the effort that has gone into showing that they will take action and in publicising the units and their work.

The units, manned by a small group of trained female and male officers, offer a focal point for women under attack at home. The work of the units can range from a joint approach with social agencies to prevent the violence continuing to organising prosecutions against offenders.

In southwest London the units have pioneered a system of cautioning husbands or partners for minor offences rather than launching court action. Research suggests that an arrest can be very effective in deterring a husband from more assaults.



Woman with a mission: Inspector Shirley Tulloch, co-ordinator of Scotland Yard's campaign to deal with domestic violence seriously and compassionately

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## PEOPLE

### Long-distance run for Kim's postbag

North Koreans have started sending "letters of loyalty" to Kim Jong Il, son and designated heir of President Kim Il Sung, to mark his forthcoming 50th birthday. Pyongyang's official news agency said: "The letters were adopted at mass meetings in preparation for the junior Kim's birthday on February 16, the Korean Central News Agency said. Relay runners set off from 21 places with the letters and will arrive in Pyongyang after going "through all the countries and cities".

The social environment, such as housing and infrastructure, should be improved to provide a better quality of life, he said, adding: "We have to pay much more attention to economic fairness rather than economic efficiency."

President Corazon Aquino of the Philippines has ordered an official to study turning the huge US naval base at Subic Bay into a Hong Kong-like free port after American forces withdraw this year. Speaking at the base, she said she had instructed veteran diplomat Alejandro Melchor, in charge of administering base conversion plans, to study the proposal.

"Included with the plans is the proposal for a special economic zone in this place with a free port status like Hong Kong," she said in a speech before Filipino base workers and residents of neighbouring Olongapo City, which she has vowed to save from economic collapse.

The Japanese prime minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, concerned about the quality of life in his

### Museum profits from art

BY DAVID ALTHREE

THE Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg, pride of the tsars and later of the communists, is embracing capitalism with a bear-like hug and entering the high-quality reproduction business with the aid of a London company.

Eight oil paintings, including Van Gogh's *The Lilac Bushes*, and others by Monet, Pissarro, Cézanne, Bonnard and Derain, will be available in a limited-edition collection of 300 for £40,000, or £5,250 each, including frames.

George Gardusha, marketing director-general of the Hermitage, built by Catherine the Great in 1764, says: "We believe this initiative will raise funds for the Hermitage and make our treasures more accessible." Or, as Dr V. Suslov, director of the Hermitage, puts it: "We have to make money out of everything that we can these days."

The Hermitage directors believe their reproductions are virtually identical to the originals. ART UK, a north London company, uses what it calls the Artograph process, developed at a cost of £1 million, to copy oil paintings by laser optical scanning and special printing techniques that can simulate even the shape of the oil paint on the canvases.

### Knitters aid Delhi slum dwellers

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THE *jhuggi* jumper scheme was instigated by the sewing group of the Delhi Commonwealth Women's Association, a welfare organisation. Morwenna Goodall, wife of Sir David Goodall, the retired British high commissioner, got her home village of Appleforth in Yorkshire to knit jumpers. They made 101; the Women's Institute was then approached and the scheme spread throughout Britain. British Airways offered to fly the jumpers to India free of charge.

Varada Menon, a member of the women's association, said the slum-dwellers were overwhelmed by the gifts. "They are touched to think that people who live thousands of miles away would do this for them." ■



Vasantha Chandra and baby Nitya

# UN peacekeepers arrive to start Croatia mission

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN ZAGREB AND TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

THE first batch of United Nations peacekeepers arrived in Zagreb and Belgrade yesterday paving the way for a full intervention force of some 10,000 "blue berets" in the Yugoslav conflict.

The 50 UN officers, who are from 18 countries including Britain, are led by Colonel John Wilson from Australia. They are unarmed and will be stationed in the two capitals and at 11 trouble-spots throughout Croatia, where they will attempt to strengthen the present ceasefire by installing communications equipment linking the Croatian and the federal army.

They will also liaise between the two sides to prevent minor incidents escalating into full-scale breaches of the

fragile peace. One Croatian was killed and another wounded on Monday night after exchange of fire near the Adriatic port of Šibenik but other fronts remained quiet.

Colonel Wilson said that he

would spend the next days

meeting senior officers of the

federal army and that groups

of UN officers would disperse

today throughout Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The latter has yet to be drawn

into the conflict, but Bosnia's

deputy interior minister, Vinko

Zepinac, said yesterday that its

tense ethnic mix of

Muslims, Croats and Serbs

made it "one big crisis point".

Two groups of 12 observers

arrived in Zagreb yesterday afternoon flying the UN flag and wearing



## Yugoslav conflict 'uproots million'

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

A MILLION people have been displaced by the war in Yugoslavia, according to Judith Kumin, chief of mission for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Belgrade.

That figure means that the conflict in Croatia has caused the greatest movement of refugees and displaced people in Europe since the second world war. About 600,000 people have been registered as refugees in Yugoslavia since the beginning of the war last summer. They registered when they needed help," Mrs Kumin said. "But we believe that this figure should be 10 per cent to 20 per cent higher because these hands have not registered."

"You must also include thousands of young men who have fled the draft, refugees now abroad, and those people who have gone to stay with families and friends working abroad. This gives us at least one million who have been forced to move because of the war."

Technically, the agency does not call the 600,000 people registered in Yugoslavia "refugees" because they are still within their country of origin — they are "displaced persons".

Thousands have registered as refugees in Austria, Germany and Italy, but the greatest number are in Hungary. There, 25,000 people have registered, but the Hungarian government estimates that as many as 45,000 have fled across Croatia's north-eastern border. The figures for displaced people are in-

creased further by 25,000 Serbs refugees in Croatia's Serb enclave of Krajina and the hundreds of 40,000 Yugoslav army officers who are being withdrawn from Croatia and Slovenia are added.

So far, Yugoslavia's republican Red Cross societies have been able to cope. Local people have given generously and opened their homes, but help has also come from the agency, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and Serb and Croat emigre communities.

Over half the refugees are Greeks who have been forced to flee their homes and are still in Croatia, but the rest are mainly Serbs who have sought refuge in Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. In Croatia, half the refugees have been housed with families; the rest have been put up in hotels and communal centres. In Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia, most refugees have been put up privately.

Mirjana Milanovic, an or-

ganiser at a refugee centre outside Belgrade, said: "Most people who opened their homes to refugees thought it would be for a short time. Several months later, many of these host families cannot cope any more and, despite the subsidies they get, they cannot afford it either; so we are getting people back here whom we thought we had already settled."

Under the terms of the peace accord, all refugees are supposed to go home but with no political settlement, most will not move until their future is secure.

A third possibility is that it comes from within the former

YUGOSLAVIA NOTEBOOK by Anne McElvoy

## Del Boy jokes cut across divisions of war

After six months at war, Zagreb's Intercontinental hotel has crossed out Serbian cream soup and fish salad Sava (named after the Serbian patron saint) from its menu. The dishes will be renamed along "Croatian lines" once the Yugoslav republic's independent credentials are established, which the *maître d'hôtel* assumes will be the case.

Little unites Serbs and Croats today. The only exception that transcends the conflict is their enthusiasm for British humour. *Only Fools and Horses* and *All of Us* are the current hits here. The latter, a spoof on the French resistance set during the second world war, is very popular. Nenad Lekic, a television columnist in Zagreb, said: According to

him, it is topical given the war and the perceived incompetence of Croatia's intelligence services. He added that Del Boy, the main character of *Only Fools and Horses*, is so well known that the name is now widely used in Croatia "as a term of affection for stupid people".

Across the border, Dragutin, my Belgrade interpreter, shares the affection for the programme and swears that it is a valuable aid to his English vocabulary, which now includes the phrases "lovely-bubbly" and "pillock". Perhaps that is a sign that there is hope of reconciliation after all for the warring sides.

Investigative is an integral aspect of the Balkan cultural diet, but the authors of the "Stop the war in Croatia"

leaflet, aimed at awakening the dormant sensibilities of the uncaring West, has caused astonishment since

"alligators, werewolves and snakes hell poisons" and concludes with a grim if unlikely warning: "Oh, Europe and America, until it is too late even for you they are coming, these hyenas and rabid rats."

"They are coming and will eat up Croatia and the Balkans, they will eat up even you with your cold and uninterested looks, or are you gentlemen conducting some experiment with Croatia? How long will Serbo-communists and Chetnik animals massacre my dear mother homeland Croatia?"

Fairness dictates that this assessment be balanced by war-wisdom from the Serbian camp, collected by Belgrade's *Vreme* magazine.

"Democracy is the word

which has been infiltrated

from the outside to cause new divisions between the Serbs even more tragic than previous ones", is a saying credited to Rastislav Petrovic, a historian.

Danilo Markovic, the Serb education minister who advocates Cyrillic as the official language in Yugoslavia, is quoted as saying: "Cyrillic is nicer and more practical for computers than the Latin alphabet."

Dragutin Zelevic, the

former prime minister, said:

"Foreign investors from all over the world have been to see me and offered to invest in the Serbian economy, so there should be no problems", dismissing claims that high unemployment and inflation at 250 percent meant that the country was facing economic difficulties.

It appeared in public buildings and hotel lobbies at the beginning of the year.

Resonant with Shakespearean fire, it claims that the land is under siege by

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# Arab leaders fight inexorable march of Islamic militants



Hassan: unable to quell hardliners

THE halting of the Algerian elections is seen in Arab capitals as merely an obstacle to the advance of Islamic fundamentalism, growing support for which is ticking like a time bomb in countries as diverse as Jordan, Egypt, Turkey, Tunisia, Syria and Sudan.

Reports of Pakistan's acquisition of nuclear expertise, Algeria's building of a new nuclear plant, and arms-buying by Iran in Russia and North Korea have increased the concern of Western and Arab intelligence agencies. There has been co-operation between Egypt, Tunisia and some European agencies to monitor an attempt by Iran to use Sudan in order to export militant Islam.

Jordan's Revolutionary Guards have set up camps in

Growing popular support for Islamic fundamentalism is ticking like a time bomb in Arab countries, reports Christopher Walker from Amman.

Sudan, where the military junta is under the sway of fundamentalists and where Sharia (Islamic law) was recently reinstated after a five-year suspension. The link between support for fundamentalists and the introduction of Western-style democracy in the Arab world is traced back to the Jordanian elections of November 1989 when fundamentalists won the biggest block of seats in the lower parliament.

Jordan had traditionally been regarded as one of the

most moderate Arab states. But the wave of support for the fundamentalists was seen as a reflection of true feelings — especially among the disillusioned and often unemployed young — exposed by King Hussein's pioneering decision to allow a fair poll.

The fundamentalists have since been given a boost in the Middle East by the Gulf war, which they opposed, and by severe economic problems that have increased dissatisfaction among young Muslim men. Tunisia had already put

its armed forces on alert before the decision to scrap tomorrow's poll in Algeria.

President Ben Ali last year crushed Tunisia's fundamentalist party by arresting 300 fundamentalists, amid accusations of torture, and expelling its leaders, accusing them of plotting a coup.

In Egypt, where President Sadat was assassinated by Muslim fanatics in 1981, the repression has been severe, also prompting protests from a number of human rights organisations over torture inflicted on Islamic detainees. Hundreds of activists were jailed without trial for voicing opposition to Egypt's involvement in the coalition against Iraq. The country is regarded in the West as the key to Middle East stability. This is

one reason why Western governments are thought to have overlooked the serious flaws in Egyptian democracy.

After events in Algeria, which sent shockwaves through the Egyptian establishment, Muslim militants have been given a warning about any attempts to take advantage. Abdel-Halim Moussa, the interior minister, said: "Our commitment to democracy does not limit our movement to confront immediately any attempt to break the law or destabilise security, whether by religious extremists or others."

He told a parliamentary committee the security services "were following closely" contacts between Egyptian militants and fundamentalist groups mainly in Algeria.

Iran and Sudan. In Morocco, King Hassan's title of Amin al-Moumine (descendant of the Prophet Muhammad) is insufficient to dampen growing protests by fundamentalist groups. In Turkey, the fundamentalist Welfare party won just under 17 per cent of the vote last October.

The grimmest warning of trouble came from Anis Mansour, an Egyptian journalist close to President Mubarak, who wrote in *al-Ahram*: "He lies to himself and to all the people who says that [Ayatollah Khomeini] was an Iranian and will remain an Iranian. He is ignorant who says: 'How does this concern us? These are problems that relate to the Shia sect and we are Sunnis'."



Sadat: was murdered by Muslim fanatics

## Palestinians and Israelis finally sit down to talk

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND RICHARD BERSTON AND PAUL ADAMS IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL and the Palestinians finally began their first direct negotiations on interim Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories on Monday night, and were due to resume their historic talks in Washington late yesterday.

At the initial two-hour meeting, the two sides put aside their procedural wrangling that had hitherto prevented any substantive discussions and exchanged lists of issues for negotiation.

Despite obvious disagreements on Israel's continued settlement activity in the occupied territories, Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian spokeswoman, said the inaugural meeting had been candid and honest and "not in the least bit confrontational". Zahav Shoval, the Israeli ambassador to Washington, called the atmosphere "very friendly, very congenial".

Israeli and Jordanian negotiators were also due to commence their first direct negotiations yesterday, with the ultimate aim of achieving a peace agreement between their two countries.

Despite the breakthrough in the face of Arab protests, the Israeli negotiations were still planning to fly home tonight, determined that the talks should now be moved to the Middle East to underscore the fact that Arab states were now talking directly to them. But Dr Ashrawi cautioned that the breakthrough was only a first step in a very

long process. "It is going to be very long."

Both sets of talks were made possible by an agreement, reached earlier on Monday, which had resolved over the role of the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. The Israelis had refused to meet the Palestinians separately, lest they implicitly recognise a distinct Palestinian identity.

Under the agreement the Israelis are meeting two teams comprising nine Palestinians plus two Jordanians and nine Jordanians plus two Palestinians. These sub-committees will discuss issues exclusively affecting either the Palestinians or Jordan. However, the teams are defined as sub-committees of the joint delegation and not as separate delegations. Issues of general concern will be discussed by the full delegations.

Talks were also continuing yesterday between Israeli and Syrian negotiators, but more than 24 hours of meetings this morning and last have produced virtually no progress whatsoever. Each side has adopted an uncompromising stance on the future of the disputed Golan Heights.

The breakthrough in Washington was, however, met with bloodshed in Israel when seven Israelis were injured last night after Palestinian gunmen raked a bus and car carrying Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank with automatic fire. The incident

was seen as an attempt by Palestinian hardliners to sabotage the peace efforts.

A spokesman for the Israeli defence force said that a number of shots were fired from the roadside near the Palestinian village of Ein Siniya. Soldiers immediately sealed off the area.

Settler leaders demanded that the government immediately recall the Israeli delegation in protest. Bob Lang, a spokesman for the Jewish communities in Judea, Samaria (West Bank) and Gaza, said: "Every time we talk peace, Jews are shot. The prime minister must say that we cannot sit at the same table with those who attack us. We know that the same Arab leaders in Washington are telling Arabs to keep up their violence against us."

Yesterday's ambush occurred only a few miles south of the site of a similar attack which was launched on the eve of last October's peace talks in Madrid that killed two people. Since then two other Jewish settlers have been killed in separate Palestinian gun attacks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The incidents have provoked violent responses from the right-wing settler movement.

So far the military authorities have responded by imposing curfew orders on Palestinian towns and villages and ordering the deportation of 12 Palestinian activists. However, yesterday's shooting is likely to intensify pressure on the government to clamp down even harder.

The right-wing anger threatens to bring down the government of Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister. Yesterday, hardliners threatened to leave the government, unless he could prove that Israel was not offering autonomy to the Palestinians. Mr Shamir's aides admitted that early general elections were possible.

The latest threat to Mr Shamir's government followed reports that Israeli negotiators in Washington had presented the Palestinian delegation with a blueprint for self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Rehavam Zeevi, leader of the tiny Moked party, which advocates the mass expulsion of Palestinians from the occupied territories, said: "If the news is correct ... we are leaving the government."

Areas warning, page 10



Light fantastic: a model in a clinging, sequinned silk dress stalks the catwalk yesterday in a show celebrating Hong Kong's fashion week

## Suspected killer 'confesses'

FROM WILLIAM CASH IN LOS ANGELES

A CALIFORNIAN man on parole after serving nearly ten years in a Texas prison for beating his daughter to death emerged as a prime suspect yesterday for the serial killing of 19 women in Los Angeles.

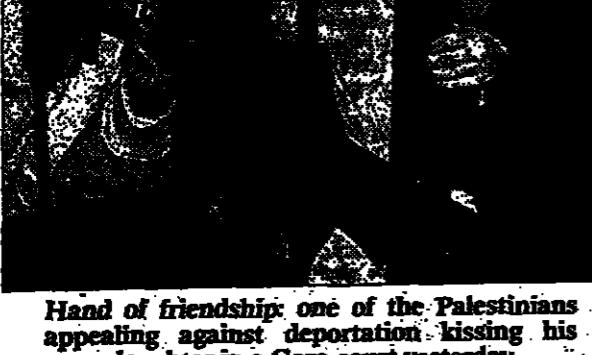
William Suff, aged 41, was arrested last week while with a prostitute on University Avenue, where several of the women were last seen alive. According to two Los Angeles television stations, Mr Suff has confessed to some of the killings. The 19 bodies were found on hillsides, in alleys and along roads in Riverside

County, east of Los Angeles County.

The revelation comes in the week that Jeffrey Dahmer, a necrophiliac, pleaded guilty but insane in Milwaukee to killing 15 men and boys. Last week a British former public schoolboy, Charles Ng, aged 30, went on trial at Calaveras, east of San Francisco, accused of being the "thriller killer" who stalked 11 women and filmed them pleading for mercy before raping and finally murdering them.

Mr Suff and Mr Ng face the death penalty if convicted.

The state of serial killings led to the order which stated that "any further postponement" of death penalty cases "will be subject to a most rigorous scrutiny".



Hand of friendship: one of the Palestinians appealing against deportation kissing his daughter in a Gaza court yesterday

## Church leaders urge Shamir to defend Christian rights

BY RICHARD BERSTON

LEADERS of the nine main Christian denominations in Jerusalem accused the Israeli authorities yesterday of flouting the rights of their communities in the Holy Land.

In a toughly worded statement the heads of the churches, including Samir Kafiyeh, the Anglican bishop, criticised the increase in Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem and the apparent disregard shown by Israeli authorities for recently unearthed Christian archaeological remains.

"One of the most serious incidents, and the one with the widest repercussions, has been the seizure of houses in Silwan by settlers who enjoy public funding and seek to evict many other families from the same neighbourhood of Silwan," the state-

ment said. It cited as further grave incidents the seizure in April 1990 of the Greek Orthodox St John's Hospice in the old city's Christian quarter, and what it termed the ambivalence of the Shamir government towards the settler movement.

The statement called on the police to protect church property after vandals belonging to the extremist Kach movement recently smashed the gates of caves belonging to Christian institutions in Jerusalem and daubed "Arabs get out" in Hebrew.

Earlier, Dr George Carey, the visiting Archbishop of Canterbury, had said that the Christian community in the Holy Land could disappear in 15 years unless steps were taken to protect their rights.

Yesterday's statement add-

T The universe will go on expanding for ever, if new information gathered by America's Hubble telescope is accurate.

Results announced this week at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society have confirmed previous estimates that there is simply too little ordinary matter in the universe to halt its expansion. Unless there is at least ten times as much "dark matter", which we can neither see nor feel, the universe is bound to expand infinitely.

The findings, reported at the meeting in Atlanta by Jeffry Linsky, an astronomer at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, heighten the puzzle about the ultimate fate of the universe. Most astronomers would like to believe that the matter thrown outwards by the Big Bang will ultimately

come to a halt, and start coalescing again as the universe heads towards a "Big Crunch".

Whether it will do so depends entirely on the total mass of the universe. If that is sufficient, the gravitational attraction will be enough to stop the expansion and ultimately reverse it. But Hubble's results confirm earlier estimates that the total visible mass is only a tenth of that needed for this to happen. The conclusion is that either we are in for infinite expansion, or there must be a form of dark matter which makes up nine-tenths of the universe.

Studying the star, Capella, using Hubble's high resolution spectrograph, they found an amount of normal matter too small by a factor of ten to reverse the expansion.

of the universe. There is only a 10 per cent chance of error in the calculation.

Other scientists at the Atlanta meeting reported the finding of the element boron, in three of the oldest stars in the Milky Way, but they confessed that they did not know where the element had come from.

The boron may be a remnant of the explosion of a supernova at the time the Milky Way was formed, or it may provide evidence that elements were unevenly distributed in the first three minutes of the Big Bang.

This last possibility casts doubt on the general conviction that all matter was evenly distributed after the Big Bang, and had only begun to coalesce into stars much later.

When President Bush arrives in the state today, for what is billed as an economic tour of coastal towns, he will find that his primary campaign is clearly in trouble.

Mr Buchanan is now only 15 points behind Mr Bush, according to the latest poll of Republican primary voters. The former speechwriter and journalist, who a month ago could be dislodged by the White House, is now a threat who can seriously embarrass Mr Bush on February 18, a day which the pro-Buchanan newspaper, *The Manchester Union*, said could provide the political upset of this century.

The boom state of the 1980s now has one of the fastest rising unemployment rates in the country. More than half of the banks are closed and many domestic property values have halved.

At the employment office Mr Buchanan met the people whose case studies he used for important speeches as election day draws near.

Bush's first hurdle, page 14  
Leading article, page 15

## Widening universe expands minds

Scientists are puzzled at evidence from the Hubble telescope which shows that there is too little matter in the cosmos to halt its growth, Nigel Hawkes writes

The Hubble team arrived at its conclusions after making the most precise measurements yet of the amount of deuterium — heavy hydrogen — in the universe. Astronomers believe that most of the deuterium created in the Big Bang exists today, and by measuring the ratio of deuterium to hydrogen they can estimate the maximum amount of ordinary matter that can exist in the universe.

Studying the star, Capella, using Hubble's high resolution spectrograph, they found an amount of normal matter too small by a factor of ten to reverse the expansion.

Job in life

The Gulf war, one year on: how the conflict left its mark on the Middle East...

# Not quite a global disaster

BY MICHAEL McCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

EVEN before President Saddam Hussein fired the Kuwaiti wells, the pundits predicted global catastrophe. Monsoons would fail, the world's climate system would be skewed, entire species would be lost. The end of the world was nigh.

The true environmental consequences of the Gulf war have been much obscured by propaganda and media exaggeration and are only now becoming apparent — but the pundits, it seems, were wrong. The war was dreadful, no question; but it was not armageddon.

The stream of warnings before the event was begun by King Husain of Jordan in his speech to the World Climate Conference in Geneva in November 1990, and continued by a succession of anti-war groups in the west. The world climate system, they said, would be altered by the smoke from Kuwait's oil fires. The Asian monsoon, on which a billion people depend, would fail. Neither disaster happened.

On a regional basis, too, the vast mortalities of photogenic wildlife, and the extinctions of whole species, that were predicted for the oil-covered waters of the Gulf did not come to pass. Between 15,000 and 30,000 seabirds are thought to have died, but the dugongs, those curious and gentle sea-mammals which became instant celebrities when the oil slicks began, did not die in their hundreds, and neither did the green and hawksbill turtles; most of the vulnerable sea mammals remained too far to the south.

That said, the environmental impact of the war, where it did reach,

was without precedent both in the atmosphere and at sea, and it faded from the headlines only because events did not live up to the initial exaggeration.

According to figures released to *The Times* yesterday, it is probable that about 67 million tonnes of oil went up in smoke between the firing of Kuwait's wells by the retreating Iraqi army and the ceremonial extinguishing of the last burning wellhead by Kuwait's emir on November 6. Douglas Johnson, of the Meteorological Research Flight at Farnborough, who led a scientific investigation of the smoke plume, has calculated that this produced about 2.1 million tonnes of soot particles and about two million tonnes of sulphur.

Although these huge amounts of filth turned night into day above Kuwait, they did not affect the world climate system. Mr Johnson says, because they did not get into the stratosphere. There they would have remained

above the rainclouds and — as some environmentalists feared — would possibly have caused the Asian monsoon to fail. As it happened, the soot particles got no higher than 5,000m, where rain washed them back down after a week to a fortnight. Locally, however, the smoke plume has indeed produced health problems on a huge scale, especially respiratory difficulties and skin afflictions. In September the World Health Organisation said it

Oil fires: health hazard

expected death rates in Kuwait to

increase by ten per cent over the following year as a result.

The amount of oil released into the waters of the Gulf at the start of the war has been the subject of much speculation. Estimates range from the 11 million barrels General Schwarzkopf claimed at the outset to 0.5 million barrels, estimated by the Saudi Meteorology and Environmental Protection Administration on February 13. The average of these 25 estimates is 6.23 million barrels, and this is roughly in line

with the most recent US estimate of six to eight million barrels.

Six million barrels of oil is easily spilled into the sea at one go, dwarfing the 250,000 barrels spilled by the Exxon Valdez in Alaska in 1989. Its effects have been terrible, but contained.

The huge slick drifted down the Saudi coastline for 350 miles, wreaking havoc, and was halted at Abu Ali island. The intertidal zone — the sensitive area between high

and low water marks essential for many fish, small animals such as shrimps, and wading birds, and which in the Gulf is often represented by saltmarsh and mangrove swamp — has been largely wiped out.

However, because the slick was halted and did not reach Bahrain, Qatar and the islands of the southern Gulf, much greater mortalities were avoided.

Gulf war pictures, page 20



Cormorant as war casualty: up to 30,000 seabirds are thought to have died, fewer than predicted

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## Israel 'faces 1,000 missiles'

FROM RICHARD BRESTON  
TEL AVIV

ISRAEL'S defence minister, Moshe Arens, said yesterday that the international community had failed to learn the lessons of the Gulf war and continued to supply radical states in the Middle East with billions of pounds worth of

weapons. Syria is attempting to spend £1 billion on similar weapons and Libya is reported to have tried to hire former Soviet nuclear experts to help develop the atom bomb.

Mr Arens said that Israel now faces hundreds of medium range missiles from potentially hostile countries in the Middle East, most of whom already have chemical weapons and some of whom are engaged in aggressive programmes to acquire nuclear arms.

"It is clear that a number of countries, specifically Iran and Libya, have medium range missiles with chemical warfare capability and are trying to obtain nuclear capability," he told *The Times*. "In the Middle East today there must be 1,000 missiles in Iraq, Iran, Syria, Libya and Saudi Arabia, with a range to hit Israel."

Although controlling the sale of sophisticated weapons to the Middle East was seen as a priority by the West at the end of the Gulf war, the arms bazaar now appears to be

more active than ever.

Iran has embarked on an ambitious campaign to modernise its military, particularly with hardware such as tanks and warplanes from redundant Soviet stockpiles. Syria is attempting to spend £1 billion on similar weapons and Libya is reported to have tried to hire former Soviet nuclear experts to help develop the atom bomb.

Israel, the only confirmed nuclear power in the region, continues to receive about £1 billion a year in American military aid as well as hundreds of millions of pounds in defence-related research and development funding.

Mr Arens, the front-runner to replace prime minister Yitzhak Shamir as leader of the ruling Likud party, was utterly dismissive about the prospects of any arms control agreement for the Middle East being reached when the subject is raised in Moscow on January 28 as part of scheduled multilateral talks.

Warning: Arens

on the contrary

they have announced

they will do everything

they can to destabilise it

he said. "So far as that game

is concerned the peace process is not an adequate response.

Mr Arens said that the Jewish state depends on the

deterrent value of its powerful military, which many Israelis on the both the left and the right believe should

have gone into action when

"The very countries that talk about arms control are the same countries that sell arms to the Middle East," he said, citing in particular Russia and other former Soviet republics, Britain, France, the United States, China and North Korea.

He said that the countries which posed the greatest threat to security in the Middle East had rejected the current American-led peace initiative. Iraq, Iran and Libya are not taking part in the peace process.

They all know that if Israel did not hit back at Iraq it was not because we lacked the capability of doing so, or lacked the desire of doing so.

However, were Israel to be targeted by surface to surface missiles today, it is doubtful whether its civilian population would be much better protected than it was last year.

Not only has the reputation of the American Patriot missile system been dented by reports that it provided inadequate defence against Scud missiles aimed at Israel and Saudi Arabia, but Israel's own anti-missile system, the Arrow, is said to have malfunctioned on its last three test launches.

Embarrassed Israeli officials have also announced that all gas masks issued for the Gulf war will be replaced by October this year, because one in three was estimated to be faulty.

month period is conditional upon

Baghdad agreeing to use some of the funds to pay war reparations. Iraq is vehemently opposed to this condition but talks between the parties continue.

Kuwait is also moving steadily towards the resumption of normal oil exports. All oil well fires have been extinguished and last November the emirate produced almost 500,000 bpd. This time next year it is likely that production will have returned to pre-war levels.

Opec meets next month to allocate quotas for the second quarter of 1992 and will attempt to bring production back under control. The organisation's record in forging agreements and then making them stick is not good, and oil-traders fear further price weakness as the cold season in the northern hemisphere draws to a close.

Saudi Arabia would benefit from higher oil prices but is understandably reluctant to be seen to be reducing output to accommodate the Iraqis, who little more than one year ago were bombing Saudi civilians. In America Saudi action to support higher oil prices would be interpreted as a poor way of thanking the US for its help in the war.

Britain and America, the leading figures in the coalition against Saddam, will view lower oil prices as a mixed blessing. Although lower energy costs provide welcome relief in the battle against inflation, both countries are significant oil producers and will suffer from lower revenues.

# Brave new world fades

BY JAMIE DEITMER

A YEAR ago this morning

Kuwaitis woke up to their 166th day under Iraqi occupation. As they dreamt about the liberation they were sure would come, they also considered what a new, post-war Kuwait would look like. Some believed a fully democratic future beckoned for the emirate. Opposition politicians, women, and journalists accustomed to censorship all hoped for a brave new world.

The high expectations have in many ways been dashed. The al-Sabah family has shown little understanding of the changed psychology of many of their people and resorted to its pre-war method of governing, using patronage to head off criticism and opposition.

Within a few days of liberation an independent newspaper, *February 26th*, which was formed quickly after the Iraqi rout, was banned. A prominent opposition politician, Hamad al-Joude, was shot and seriously wounded by military irregulars widely believed to be connected with hardline junior al-Sabah members.

A strong message was sent to those who wanted the emirate to change when a government reshuffle in April saw the re-appointment of the highly unpopular sheikhs Salim and Nawaf al-Sabah — interior and defence ministers at the time of the invasion — to the cabinet. The new cabinet included no opposition figure or resistance leader in its ranks.

After growing internal political pressure and behind-the-scenes diplomatic persuasion, the emir eventually agreed to honour the promise he gave while in exile of holding national assembly elections, and set the date for October 1992. The more western-style radical politicians are furious that the vote will remain limited to Kuwaiti males who can trace their ancestry back to 1920, thus restricting the electorate to about 70,000 people. Fe-

ther

Israel received its first Scud missile attack a year ago this week.

"It is hard to second guess Arab dictators but most of them are aware of Israel's military capability and I don't think that any of them are under the illusion that they could attack Israel without a response," he said.

"They all know that if Israel did not hit back at Iraq it was not because we lacked the capability of doing so, or lacked the desire of doing so."

However, were Israel to be targeted by surface to surface missiles today, it is doubtful whether its civilian population would be much better protected than it was last year.

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Warning: Arens

on the contrary

they have announced

and how television became a willing tool of the military machine — or did it?

# Shooting news from both sides

The editors of quality news papers, worried by the implications for sales of the burgeoning "global village", should engrave on their word processors an addition to that most catchy of promotional jingles for Ted Turner's Cable News Network: "The moment television news captures live is a moment the world remembers."

The addition should be: "... but rarely comprehends".

Nowhere was this more apparent than during the Gulf war, seen by many as CNN's finest hour and the main reason why Turner, the 53-year-old former America's Cup yachtsman and third husband of Jane Fonda, who founded the network, was *Time* magazine's nomination as Man of the Year.

To those of us watching CNN in places where the war was taking place, it quickly became clear that viewers around the world and our own news desks were often getting a very different impression of what was taking place, and why.

CNN's coverage, for all its technical brilliance, presented war as sanitised public theatre, a war without much blood, few corpses and little mental anguish, in a world where appalling examples of military speak such as "collateral damage" (a euphemism for human carnage) passed unquestioned. It was also a war where censorship and manipulation were frequent.

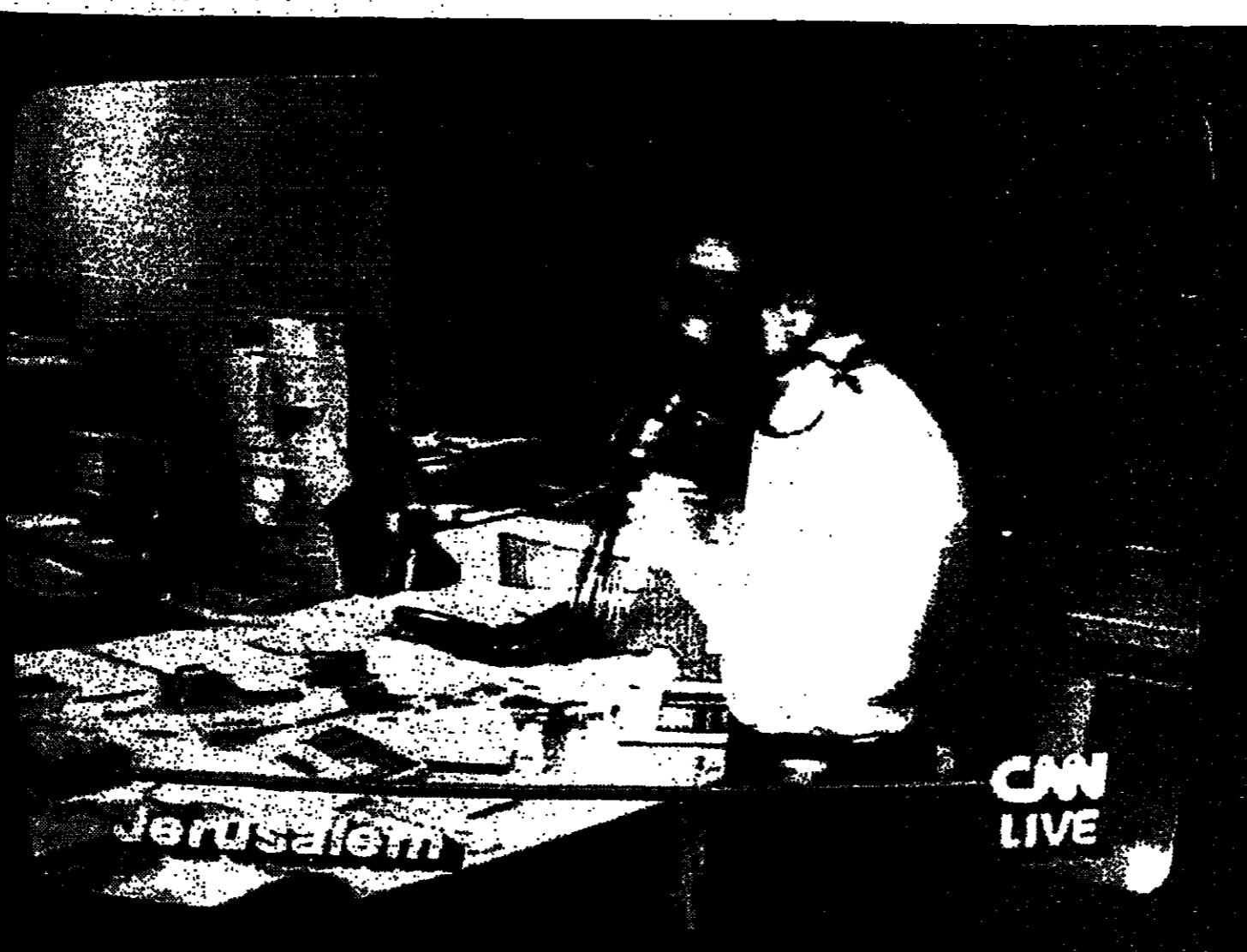
It is no surprise that it was only newspapers and news magazines that carried shocking images and full descriptions of the terrible charred remains of the fleeing Iraqis caught on Kuwait's Mutla Ridge.

Similarly, it was the written press which carried accounts of the brutally suppressed Shia Muslim uprising in the south of Iraq, while television concentrated on the equally horrific but physically more accessible fate of the Kurds in the north.

While some would argue that one result of CNN's instant transmission of news into the living rooms of 150 countries is to sound the death knell of that endangered species, the newspaper foreign correspondent, in reality it should increase their usefulness, provided there is a realisation that a radically new approach to their work is needed.

*As Time* argued in its citation for the man it named, with curious Washington-style pomposity, as Robert Edward Turner III, the very definition of news was re-written, during 1991, from "something that has happened" to "something that is happening at the very moment you are hearing of it".

That was driven home to me in unenviable fashion in the early days of the air war last January when, on more than one occasion, the 24-hour *Times* Gulf news desk in London would anxiously ring my room in the Dharam, Merchant Hotel to wake me with the warning (that they had inevitably seen on CNN) that a Scud missile alert had been announced for eastern Saudi Arabia.



Front-page news from an embattled front line: CNN reporter Larry Register files his report from Jerusalem after a Scud missile attack

The proper response of a correspondent is to concentrate on digging information in areas where television cameras are unable, forbidden or unwilling to tread, and to concentrate on description, explanation and investigation.

Given that CNN whets the appetite for events in far-off places, there is no reason why the quality press cannot thrive off it. Serious viewers of CNN want to know more about what they have seen, and are often put off by the gauche Americanness of the commentary.

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The Iraqis badly wanted the television people to stay. In particular, they wanted CNN to stay. Saddam Hussein's strategy was dependent on having American television in Baghdad who could see — and transmit — the terrible scenes he expected would take place. This was why he anticipated only two air strikes on the city.

Although CNN has matured enormously from the days when it was known derisively as "The Chicken Noodle Network", it and the other American and British television organisations are much more open to being tools of officialdom than those whose main tools remain the pen and the notebook.

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Simpson continues: "CNN was already Saddam's favourite channel, and it was a status symbol for Saddam's ministers to have it in their office. It was pumped into Saddam's bunker and into the safe houses he maintained around the city. It was his window on the world; which explained, someone said caustically, why his view of the world was so weird."

As any print reporter who has worked alongside a television team knows, television news is nothing if it does not have pictures, and its brief account of events is normally tailored to fit the pictures rather than the facts.

In war, this practice is especially dangerous, because when the pictures are deemed too shocking to be aired (it makes the mind boggle as to how CNN would have covered the liberation of Belsen), the accompa-

nying description is also often omitted. "It quickly becomes war as video game, rather than war as it really is: brutal, vomit-making and often unifying for those involved," one Western war correspondent says.

By inadvertently helping Saddam's missile aimers to adjust their coefficients by their practice of identifying Scud targets, later halted after protest, and by going along with Allied military censorship, CNN played a major — but not always blameless — role in the public's comprehension of, and therefore attitude, to the war and its aftermath.

The macabre sight of its reporters and other television teams working in their gas masks helped to drive home the dangers of reporting the conflict. But the net result of much of the footage was to reduce understanding rather than increase it, particularly when the machinations of the military spin doctors from the Pentagon and Whitehall went unchallenged.

"History as it happens" is how Time characterised the output of CNN's round-the-clock news service. Newspapers are not obliged to agree with Henry Ford in order to realise that this is a slick and frequently shallow formula to which they can provide a vital complement, rather than slow-footed rivalry.

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## A conflict of images

BY MARK LATY

NEWSPAPERS can be a bit like Britain in the Fifties, in that, to adapt Dean Acheson's quote, they've lost their pre-eminence, and are yet to find a new role. They can't beat television to the punch, and yet nothing gets a hack's blood racing as much as being first. So, when the papers start talking about more analysis, it's tempting to applaud. The trouble is they can't help sneering at the upstart newcomer, television, as they do it.

The latest incarnation of this view is that television made a mess of the Gulf war. It's fashionable to say that the coalition managed the news, "sanitising" the war, while television merely gave way, ignoring the real issues. The heroes are the print reporters who broke the rules.

But the idea that television submitted to official control more than print did does not wash. ITN had a team officially holed up in Khafji, Saudi Arabia, a BBC *Newshight* team roamed freely throughout the war, and other BBC crews made unauthorised trips to Khafji during the Iraqi attack. Just before the ground war, many television networks simply ignored the rules to get the story.

They also had teams with Centcom HQ in Riyadh, and on any pool (the official journalists attached to military units) they could get. In other words, they covered every base — just as the newspapers did. No news organisation covering a story can avoid making its pact with officialdom in exchange for access.

To say the allies "managed" the news in the Gulf war also makes one-sided a more complex game. The power of television, especially CNN, produced more openness than the military intended, or newspapers could manage. However, it is a curious feature of journalists that we get a buzz from the covert source, as if the unnamed source does not have its name on it. CNN is also in a different category from other television, being more of a visual Reuters, putting out raw information. Treated that way, it is more asset than hindrance.

It was also television's video of the Basra Road that shook the world. It was television, including the BBC and CNN, that got the story.

That was not what they said was happening. Sure, they didn't tell us the whole story, but there was no repeat of Vietnam, with systematic deception of the media.

The military recognised that it was ultimately self-defeating. The American military learnt from Vietnam, and the only people who do not seem to have realised it were Saddam Hussein and some of the media.

But television's besetting sin was that it supposedly broadcast a "clean" Gulf war, and not enough of the "realities" of war. This is, of course, code for showing bits of bodies, but is that all the reality of warfare amounts to? War is about heroism as well as fear, flag-waving as well as refugees, drama as well as death. Journalists should show it all, and let the public decide whether war is hell.

The author is defence correspondent for BBC Radio.

### TV TRUTHS

that reported the Baghdad bunker bombing, to the coalition's anger and dismay. Shocking images, full of the "reality" of war allegedly only reported by print.

In fact, the most memorable print response to the bunker bombing was by the *Daily Express*, in a story headlined "Outrage Over BBC War Bias". The editorial slant of some of the media seems to me to have had a far bigger impact on what the public were told than official arm-twisting.

Equally, television does not deserve a clean bill of health. The instant demands of live news give over-pressured reporters unrivalled opportunities for being instantly wrong, while giving a further shove to journalists' already strong tendency to sensationalise.

All this is hardly new, so why the fuss? The fact is the debate about the Gulf has a second agenda, which has little to do with the nature of print and television journalism. Some journalists assume official information is disinformation, only exposed by fearless reporters swanning around the desert. Yet official information should be treated like any other source, and judged on its record — and of the official briefings was not what they said was happening. Sure, they didn't tell us the whole story, but there was no repeat of Vietnam, with systematic deception of the media.

The military recognised that it was ultimately self-defeating. The American military learnt from Vietnam, and the only people who do not seem to have realised it were Saddam Hussein and some of the media.

But television's besetting sin was that it supposedly broadcast a "clean" Gulf war, and not enough of the "realities" of war. This is, of course, code for showing bits of bodies, but is that all the reality of warfare amounts to?

War is about heroism as well as fear, flag-waving as well as refugees, drama as well as death. Journalists should show it all, and let the public decide whether war is hell.

The author is defence correspondent for BBC Radio.

### Many TV networks ignored the rules to get the story

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## BRIEFING

## Turandot to tour

THE Royal Opera's production of Puccini's *Turandot*, seen this month at Wembley Arena, will now travel to regional venues and abroad, according to Raymond Gubbay, promoter of the Wembley venture. Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow and Sheffield are likely candidates for a transfer, with Amsterdam possible as the first overseas stop. Gubbay appears undaunted by the moderate houses at Wembley: for ten performances, *Turandot* sold 56,000 of its 80,000 tickets. He claims to have recouped the £2.5 million invested in the experiment.

## Mersey mission

HAVING only recently made its first American appearance — playing Paul McCartney's *Liverpool Oratorio* in Carnegie Hall — the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic will be back in the United States next month on an 11-city tour, under its Czech music director, Libor Pešek. The orchestra's mission is not purely musical. It is being sponsored to the tune of £150,000 by the Merseyside Development Corporation, with the overt intention of attracting American investment to Liverpool. Another British orchestra, the City of Birmingham Symphony, will be looking enviously at its northern rival. The CBSO announced last week that its planned American tour this spring was on the point of being abandoned, for lack of a sponsor.

## Last chance . . .

ENGLISH National Ballet's new production of *The Nutcracker* will have clocked up 55 performances in seven weeks when its London run ends at the Festival Hall (071-928 8800) on Saturday. This is ENB's seventh different staging of the ballet since 1950. The present one, by Ben Stevenson with designs by Desmond Heeley, will now be packed away until the autumn.

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Rock and Opera  
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## THEATRE

## Come back Jimmy, all is unforgiven

John Osborne was one of the first Angry Young Men. Benedict Nightingale finds that he, almost alone, has not mellowed

**M**ax Stafford-Clark, speaking with the authority of 13 years as the Royal Court's director, recently expressed the opinion that dramatists have a pretty short working life. Shaw and Ayckbourn were the exceptions, he suggested; Congreve and Wilde nearer the norm. Nobody could look at the fluctuating fortunes of the writers who came to prominence in the 1950s and 1960s, many of them at the Court itself, without wondering if his fatalism was justified.

Most people know that Harold Pinter, the finest of them all, has written just three plays in the last ten years, only one of which, *Party Time*, comes close to reconciling his latter-day radicalism with the occult artistry of his earlier work. But what has become of Wesker, Nichols, Arden, Storey, and the others who created our theatrical renaissance? What of the founding father, the author of the seminal *Look Back In Anger*? John Osborne himself? Has he been doing much more than fight for the freedom to puff Turkish cigarettes?

Yes, at long last he has. His sequel to *Look Back In Anger*, *Déjà vu*, was actually due to open in Liverpool in November. Frustratingly, Osborne and Peter O'Toole, who was to perform the ageing Jimmy Porter, could not agree on cuts and the production was shelved. But Faber has now published the text and, long and cranky though it is, it left me for one longing to hear its sandblaster rhetoric come rasping over the footlights.

What has happened to Jimmy since we left him and his wife Alison whimsically comparing themselves to bears and squirrels back in 1956? For a teasing moment the answer seems to be nothing. He and his chum Cliff slumped over the Sunday papers while Alison irons, just as they did at the start of *Look Back In Anger*. But the attic flat is now the kitchen of a sprawling country house,

'Jimmy was mistaken for a radical; updated, he sounds like a scattershot blimp.'

One common objection to Osborne's plays was that they were little more than excuses for one character to air his prejudices. There is something almost exultingly bloodbeminded about the snooks that *Déjà vu* cocks at such critics. It has no plot at all. True, Jimmy echoes *Anger* by alienating the new Alison and sleeping with her friend, again called Helena. He also has an offstage son in trouble for vandalising a church. But the function of the supporting cast is to listen while Jimmy, aided by a surprisingly dyspeptic Cliff, disgorges verbal stoniac acid.

Perhaps that is what he has been doing since 1956. He spent the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s talking, talking, and plans no sudden career change in the 1990s. How could he, when there is so much to mock? The list here includes wet vicars, trendy bishops,

loved, unlovable and unloving". Though he himself describes his anger as grief for lost decencies, "slow, gentle, not vindictive or full of spite", there is probably weight in her accusations. Some of Jimmy's everyday banter — his limicks about sodomites writers and anal dilation — is meant seriously to offend.

The old Jimmy, railing as he did at the Establishment, was widely mistaken for a radical. The updated one sounds like a scattershot blimp. But actually both are frustrated individualists with strong anarchic tendencies. Let any sign of group complacency appear, indeed let two or three people agree about anything at all, and Jimmy's verbal dynamite is instantly out of his travelling bag.

Naturally, this vexes others. Osborne is harder on Jimmy than in *Anger*, letting an Alison far tougher than her predecessor call him "mad and utterly horrible", "un-

loved", unlovable and unloving". Though he himself describes his anger as grief for lost decencies, "slow, gentle, not vindictive or full of spite", there is probably weight in her accusations. Some of Jimmy's everyday banter — his limicks about sodomites writers and anal dilation — is meant seriously to offend.

**B**ut will we ever get a chance to be offended by *Déjà vu*? Though our theatre can boast of sadly few new dramatists, it can be ruthless to its older ones. The nation's children may still study Arnold Wesker's *Roots*, but impresarios resist his reshaping of *The Merchant of Venice*, *Shylock*, and his entertaining picture of paternalism in action, *The Wedding Feast*. He continues to write and is now in Chicago, supervising the production of his new *Three Women Talking*. He has not had a major London showing since *Caritas* at

the National Theatre in 1981. Peter Nichols, missing from London since *Piece of My Mind* in 1986, saw his *About Turner* ("a Jekyll and Hyde story," he says, "rather bleak") scheduled for the National, then dropped. He is now trying to sell *Ravishing*, about a trek through the Himalayas, and not very hopefully composing yet another play. At the back of his mind may be the memory of John Arden, the author of *Sergeant Musgrave's Dance* and *Live Like Pigs*, who these days writes novels, not plays. But then Arden committed a kind of conscientious suicide some years ago, abandoning the largeminded drama everybody admired for a narrow didacticism most people hated.

Arden's example would seem to support Stafford-Clark's generalisation. Yet there is evidence to refute him. Didn't London recently see Simon Gray's excellent *Hidden Laughter*? Isn't Tom Stoppard, who has buried himself with firm

scripts since *Hapgood* in 1988, reported to be writing a new stage play? And what of David Storey, whose theatrical career seemed to have ended with *Early Days* in 1980?

He kept writing, always mentally fashioning his work for the theatre which had achieved such success with *Home*, *The Contractor* and *Life Class*. But under his present director, Stafford-Clark himself, the Court snubbed his advances. Then in 1989 his *March on Russia* burst into the National. Now the same theatre plans soon to present his *Stages*, with Alan Bates in the lead, and may follow it with a two-hander called *Caring*.

The moral is obvious: don't write off old troupers until they are under the sod. The final stage-direction of *Déjà vu* calls for loud martial music to counter "audience dissent". Maybe we'll get the chance to boo the 60-year-old Jimmy Porter yet.

• *Déjà vu* is published by Faber (£1.99)



Seminal: Jimmy Porter (Kenneth Haig) and Alison (Mary Ure) in John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger* at the Royal Court, 1956

## HERITAGE

## Cutting remarks and the concentrating power of fear

Jocelyn Stevens, about to take over as head of English Heritage, talks to Simon Tait

**A**t a Christmas party Jocelyn Stevens was presented with an executioner's sword, a symbol of his past eight years as rector of the Royal College of Art and perhaps his next job, as chairman of English Heritage. He used it to bar a foil of bread rolls that followed his speech of thanks.

"Next day I went to the English Heritage council meeting, where they were telling me how they liked to let their hair down at Christmas. 'Chuckling bread rolls about, I suppose?' I said. 'Oh no, nothing as childish as that,' they said. 'He thought of the sword.' You have to have a sense of fun."

His idea of fun for the last eight years has been to transform entirely the Royal College of Art, and he promises to

do the same to English Heritage when he becomes chairman on April 1. According to Stevens, English Heritage is highly inefficient, overstuffed and in the wrong place.

His appointment to succeed Lord Montagu was announced last August, and since then he has attended every monthly council meeting. "Up on the top floor I found a notice announcing my appointment, with giant red arrows pointing at it: 'The Piranha is coming! Honest-

ly, with a reputation like that, half the job is done before I get there.' Stevens thrives on the adrenaline of other people's fear. At his third meeting of the EH council he asked a question: What is the mission? "They all looked very puzzled and wanted to know what I meant. I said it was simple: was the mission to save buildings or to keep giving themselves healthy pay rises and living in pleasant accommodation? It confused them so much I had to promise not to ask the question again until April 1."

He hates bureaucracy and waste, both of which he believes English Heritage is guilty of. "There is a civil service attitude which is about looking after one's own position, and that has got us into trouble."

English Heritage itself will have to go too, out of London.

"There are 1,700 members of staff occupying hugely expensive offices in the West End, about as costly as you can get.

They need to be out, where the heritage is, around the country.

"The image is a very forbidding one, and English Heritage has to be accessible, reaching out, looking as if it really cares about the heritage and protecting it. Instead it's got a reputation for blocking things," he says. "Even the head office is called Fortress House and the logo, that crenelated square, is hopeless."

**B**etween April 1 and July 31 Stevens's job will overlap, and he will use the RCA to declare some of his intentions for the other. "There's going to be an exhibition called *England in Aspic* which will ask a question: Is this country one big heritage centre in which all progress should stop?"

He has even annoyed some by remarking in council that the fight to save the building on Number One Poultry, the Mappin and Webb site in the City of London, was wrong and that the Mies van der Rohe building Lord Palumbo originally wanted to build on it might have been a worthy replacement for an "undistinguished" Victorian building. The protectionist lobby, he believes, is too powerful and English Heritage has not been bold enough to stand up to it.

When Stevens became re-

ctor of the RCA in 1984 he had a letter from the minister for higher education telling him that unless drastic changes were made, the college might be closed. He made the changes.

**T**he college is now nearly all on one site, with a new £12 million development called the Stevens Building; sponsorship has risen to such an extent that 25 per cent of income is now non-government: fees have been raised to nearer actual cost level; last year academic staff rose by 8.6 per cent, student applications for this academic year were up 27 per cent and applications from Europe rose 78 per cent. Stevens likes to call the RCA the European University of Art and Design.

His legacy to his still unnamed successor is to leave the Royal College of Art with

none of the accommodation problems which beset it in the past. But from next academic year the college will have to fight alongside the universities for its government grant from the higher education funding council, instead of receiving a direct grant from the education department.

"As to the staff, I wouldn't swap any of them," he says. I reminded him that he had already swapped most of them several times. "I wouldn't swap them again, then," he replies.

English Heritage's staff can look forward to similar pruning. Marcus Binney wrote that one of my tasks would be to stop the best people leaving, and I'm afraid it might be too late.

More a question of getting them back. English Heritage is hugely inefficient. What it needs is fewer, better people who care about the heritage.

## LONDON INTERNATIONAL MIME FESTIVAL

## Some of the right moves

Jeremy Kingston looks at the ways in which mime has expanded its scope and asks whether more is possible

ing their skills. More interaction takes place than in the performances by Marceau, who did make use of assistants but never equals. For his pictures of the hazards in modern society Théâtre de Complicité can call on the 30 or more players who have at various times appeared under his banner. Glee is an emotion nowadays to be seen — though invariably, if memory serves, it disintegrates into mayhem and panic.

**H**istorically, dumb show was not the essential fact of the participants in the London International Mime Festival, now in its 15th year. They talk, they sing, they dance, they clown; they are acrobats, jugglers, contortionists. They will almost certainly be expert in twisting their bodies into most peculiar shapes, and showing emotion with the roll of an eye or a twitch of the nose. But has the range of these emotions fundamentally altered?

Superficially, yes. Today's mimes inhabit the world of today, where people chafe at office work, rage at their spouses, set off on holidays, cook each other meals, plot revenge, are sexually abused, love, daydream and die. All human life would seem to be there, in one or other of the score of companies and solo performers currently displaying

actress, unforgettably poignant yet perky as the Dummy in *Ghetto*, agile and adroit, she here portrays a disappointed spinster who is trapped (inevitably) in a tenement room, and trapped within her narrow range of fantasies.

Perched six feet off the ground at a sewing table, she is tying socks, cardies and other clothes, but also cereal packets, beer cans and a tea-strainer, to an enormous cloth that sweeps down to the ground like a coronation robe worn back to front. "It's a multi-purpose blanket for the world," are her first words. She shuffles about the place in her fake giraffe-head slippers, skitters into the audience to represent a visit to church, addresses the Virgin and mourns, as she puts it, the uses her body was never put to.

Too scared of hell to have risked enjoyment, she lets out her seeming rage on an upturned chair which she stabs to death. Yes, she looks unhappy, and, yes, she sounds distressed and, yes, her performance was failed at the Edinburgh Festival.

But not only are her predicaments the familiar ones of the harassed misfit but their expression is superficial, uninvolved and somehow incomplete. As spoken mime approaches the province of drama, physical agility must obtain dramatic structure.

**A**ND, finally, an affair with numbers. The Music of Alban Berg, directed by Linda Kerr Scott at the ICA Theatre. An excellent

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Truth or dare, from left: did Maxwell jump; Hess act alone; Wilson spy for the Soviets; Ceausescu escape death; and who slept with Marilyn Monroe?

## Thickening the plots

**T**hese are feverish times for conspiracy theorists. Sometimes you sit quietly worrying that perhaps the world's conspiracy theorists are losing their grip on reality, when something 'comes along' to show you that, actually, they are going clean round the bend.

The death of Robert Maxwell, the collapse of the drug money-laundering Bank Of Credit and Commerce International, the spooky way you feel faint if you do your tie up very tightly and then hold your breath... everything nowadays is food for hysterical plot-fanciers. Paranoia is everywhere. It will spread when *JFK*, Oliver Stone's new film on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, arrives in Britain next week.

Stone has pointed his finger at a new suspect. His premise seems to be that just about everyone remembers what they were doing when Kennedy was shot, because just about everyone was involved in the plot. The events of November 22, 1963, have a simple explanation. But before we reveal what really happened, let us unravel some other great mysteries:

**Robert Maxwell:** After Maxwell fell from his yacht on November 5, some said he took his life, knowing that the Serious Fraud Office and debt-collectors from the Swiss Bank Corp were on him. Or was he knocked off by secret agents from Mossad, the KGB, MI5, the Stasi? Did he take heart attack simulation pills to trick life insurers into paying up for suicide? A Spanish judge chose natural causes. An autopsy in Israel found signs that he was attacked. *Paris Match* magazine reports:

**Correct answer:** Maxwell

**The Harold Wilson Smear:** A Soviet spy? Was 10 Downing Street a communist cell? The material was piled high. By MI5? He visited Moscow, for heaven's sake. Was Hugh Gaitskell murdered in 1963 by the KGB to make way for Wilson? Peter Wright, a former MI5 officer, confessed that he had filed false evidence to substantiate anti-Wilson smears. Colin Wallace, another intelligence

most found out once when his pipe accidentally went out, a coded "disaster" signal before they could be stopped. The Russians had built Milton Keynes.

**Romania:** Who really overthrew Nicolae Ceausescu? What about this: it took Romanians years to realise that life under a dictator was a pain, but when they realised it they were mad as hell. The National Salvation Front was installed as a replacement amid cheers and tumult. But was the hooligan a clever front for a palace coup? Did Moscow set the ball rolling? What happened to the Securitate officers who spread terror during the revolution and then vanished?

**Correct answer:** Ceausescu was treasurer of the local Credit Union and got greedy (see above). He escaped death and now acts in Iraqi television commercials for an onomatopoeic cough mixture called "Ceausescu". Mrs Ceausescu is waitressing in Baghdad.

**BCCI:** Quite a few of the bankrupt Bank of Credit and Commerce International's 3,000 customers were sleazy crooks. But some intelligence agencies from some of the world's most pukka governments were entangled in the mess. What were they getting out of it? Was the mafia in there too? And the CIA?

**Correct answer:** BCCI started as the kity for a Tuesday night poker game. Players started borrowing at high interest rates to cover their gambling debts. Things finally got out of hand one night when one declared "Kings high", and Marty O'Clock News. He was al-

most found out once when his pipe accidentally went out, a coded "disaster" signal before they could be stopped. The Russians had built Milton Keynes.

**Marilyn Monroe:** Did you believe the theory about Bobby Kennedy sleeping with Monroe just before she died? Really, it was like this. William Roemer, a former FBI agent, says wiretap evidence suggests that in the week before she died Monroe had sex simultaneously with Frank Sinatra and Sam Giancana, the mafia boss. Rubbish, says Sinatra's public relations agent. So who didn't sleep with Monroe just before she died? And how did she find the time to take an overdose?

**Correct answer:** Boo-boos doo.

**So Who Did Kill Kennedy?** A lone lunatic? The FBI? Mafia hoodlums? A survey found that 56 per cent suspected some sort of conspiracy. Only 19 per cent agreed with the Warren Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone. A Washington select committee said there was a 95 per cent probability of a conspiracy. Everyone thinks big in America, but Stone thinks bigger than most. He blames everybody: the FBI, the CIA, the army, the media, the navy, anti-Castro Cubans, the military-industrial complex and the hawks in Kennedy's own government, apparently angry because Kennedy was about to withdraw all Americans from Vietnam. **Correct answer:** John Kennedy never died. It was all just a bad dream. Bobby had in the shower.

*JFK, opens on January 24.*

All the president's men? Government hawks were suspected of wanting to kill Kennedy



**Everyone remembers what they were doing: plotting to kill Kennedy**

officer claimed to know of an MI5 operation that also tried to rock the government. But in 1987 Margaret Thatcher said an MI5 enquiry had found no evidence of an anti-Soviet conspiracy.

**Correct answer:** Yes. Wilson was an agent though he never made dead-letter drops. Instead, he sent messages to Moscow by smoke signals from his pipe when interviewed on the BBC Nine O'Clock News. He was al-

## Auntie takes on the agony

**M**argaret Salmon, embodiment of the BBC's new purge on racism and sexism, has a novel approach to the vexing business of finding a meaningful definition of sexual harassment: she does not try.

"Why do we need it?" she asks, coolly. "People actually have a very clear idea of what they mean by it. We can all list examples. It's only around the perimeter that definitions blur. The core of the problem we all agree."

We're aware that what one woman may take as a compliment can be insulting to another, and of the voyeuristic interest that the subject arouses. Mrs Salmon is perhaps wise to take refuge in generalities. For the one student who had her bottom pinched by George Moore, and said she felt "rather honoured that my behind should have drawn the attention of the great master of English prose", there were probably a dozen others who would have reported him to the senate.

"I am talking about any sort of behaviour — sexual or racially driven or religious harassment — that is unacceptable to the person on the receiving end," Mrs Salmon continues.

Her manifesto goes further. As the head of personnel at the BBC, she has supplied all 25,000 employees with a booklet telling them how to make complaints and urging them to report anything from blue jokes to demands for sexual favours. It says: "Non-verbal conduct such as the display of certain pictures, pin-ups or written material can also make people feel uncomfortable, can cause offence and can be regarded as a form of harassment."

Mrs Salmon is, apparently, quite unusual in her approach. A recent survey, conducted by the University of Manchester's Institute of Science and Technology among 110 British organisations, reports that 88 per cent of personnel directors had not issued a policy statement on management's attitude to sexual harassment.

How big one wonders, is the problem?

### Why the BBC's staff need a booklet on unacceptable behaviour

officer specialising in equal opportunities, says, "because usually the harasser would be a senior person and there was no protection against victimisation. So although we knew there was a problem — the same names would keep coming up — the management was able to deny it because there were no formal complaints."

One producer, she says, made passes at a woman who froze him out. His response was to complain that she was incompetent and useless in team spirit. "Under the new code it will be possible to fire a warning shot across the bows of a man who is being offensive."

Mrs Salmon, aged 44, says she is lucky never to have been a victim of sexual harassment. "Maybe I've just been fortunate in the organisations I've worked with [W.H. Smith, Debenhams, Burtons]. In the retail trade they were used to employing women."

She was less fortunate in her husband's choice of timing last week. No sooner had she launched her campaign than he was quoted as saying that he thought rigid, highly-publicised complaints procedures unnecessary and possibly detrimental to happy office life. Michael Salmon, aged 46, a management consultant, said: "If someone has done a good job I might want to give them a kiss to show appreciation. That could be interpreted as harassment."

His wife purported to be unfazed. "What he said goes to the heart of the debate. It is a perfectly legitimate point of view and I have had many people express it. Where I disagree is on the extent of the problem. Maybe it isn't a big problem in the organisations he is familiar with, but I don't care how big or small the problem is. I know it exists and has to be taken seriously."

Was she discomfited by her husband's attitude? Not at all. "But perhaps he will be more guarded in future."

**ELIZABETH GRICE**

Almost evangelical: Margaret Salmon

within the BBC, where women make up 42 per cent of the workforce! Here, Mrs Salmon becomes almost evangelical. "It doesn't matter how big it is. It exists. It is the perception of the individual which is important. Obviously, we've got quite a lot of anecdotal information." But not the sort of anecdotes she wishes to discuss publicly.

She is patient about the overriding interest in her campaign against sexual impropriety at work, which forms just a small proportion of her work in the field of equal opportunities. She took up the job ten months ago — a position that made her the first woman member of the BBC's main board.

But the campaign was long overdue. The unions claim the BBC had ignored the issue of sexual harassment for years. "We could only take complaints so far," Christina Driver, the industrial

relations officer, says.

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**Exit, Liz**

ONE of the most glamorous last dunes in Britain of Liz Tilberis, the outgoing *Vogue* editor, before she takes up her

editorship of *Harper's Bazaar* in America, will be to co-chair the royal gala of the film *The Prince of Tides*, which will take place in the presence of the Princess of Wales on Tuesday, February 18, for the benefit of the Aids Crisis Trust. Admission to the premiere is a mere £5 — but the "suggested donation" will bring that to a minimum of £25, and up to £135 for the best seats, from which, presumably, the princess may be seen. Tickets will be allocated on a "first come, first served" basis. Ticket application forms may be obtained from Aids Crisis Trust, 38 Ebury Street, London SW1 WOLU, telephone 071-730 0103.

**VICTORIA MCKEE**



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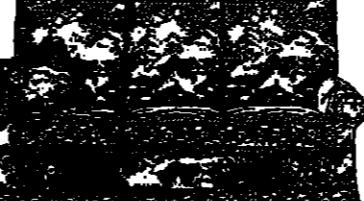
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071 722 7810

**WEYBRIDGE**  
66/68 Church Street,  
near St. James Church.  
0932 859390

## Renewed growth

GARDENING, it appears, is an attractive career for women wanting to return to work, full or part-time, after raising a family. In response to many enquiries from women returners, the Women's Farm and Garden Association has launched the "Women Returners in Amenity Gardening" scheme, together with a training gardens register, and will try to match gardeners and gardeners. Gardeners will work part-time for a year at a trainee rate, under the supervision of

## Classical culture

**Richard Morrison**  
on common sense in  
the arts curriculum

For the moment at least, school music teachers have been saved from the prospect of giving lessons about reggae, ragas and *Rigoletto* in quick succession, or possibly simultaneously. Art teachers will not need to brush up on "Aboriginal dream maps". After a year of worry and wrangling about how music and art are taught in state schools, the National Curriculum Council took a step towards sanity this week. It reassessed the primacy of the Western cultural heritage in the British school curriculum, and so overturned the views of the educational "experts" on its own music and art working groups.

Last year, these experts judged the decision of what children should study, in favour of a wimpish series of "anything goes" options (Michael Jackson, for instance, might be as "valid" a subject as Beethoven), coupled to a tired old "self-expression" educational philosophy. Musical literacy, the key to nearly all performance and understanding, would no longer rigorously be taught; children would magically "discover" literacy through their own compositions.

Now the council has administered some old-fashioned thwacks across the experts' knuckles. The art working party, it says, paid too little attention to Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and other Western artists believed to be of merit. Similarly, the music working party undervalued the vast heritage of European classical music, following the false premise that if you other pop and rap, children might follow.

In short, the council's conclusions reinforce the feeling that, to some extent, the working groups were hijacked by the race-relations and equal-opportunities lobbies. Fashionable, "politically correct" views were preferred to proven educational methods. Educationists put Polynesian nose-flute music on a par with J.S. Bach, even if they did not know the first thing about Polynesian music.

Predictably, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers decries the council's stance as "over the top": the council has not considered that "hundreds of thousands of our schoolchildren are not of European descent". But why should that matter? Teaching is about opening doors to new knowledge, not reinforcing ghetto mentalities. The British cannot go on forever carrying the old burden of colonial guilt about "imposing" European culture on the world. Children should be taught in the tradition teachers best understand.

Others have been horrified by the targets set for different age-groups: seven-year-olds, for instance, are expected to "listen to and talk about" Tchaikovsky and Mozart, and "respond to" Henry Moore and Leonardo da Vinci (Jackson Pollock, thank goodness, is reserved for teenagers). If you went out into the street, the doubters ask, how many adults would you find who could respond cogently to a Moore sculpture or a Stravinsky concerto? This, however, is precisely the point. Millions are effectively cut off from appreciating classical music or great painting and sculpture because they have not been shown how to enjoy the arts at school, and so feel inadequate to meet their challenges. Consequently, the serious arts are regarded as elitist, and considered too "divisive" to be taught. And so the vicious circle of exclusion continues.

The great heritage of Western culture is a treasure-chest that each generation discovers anew. Why do educationists conspire to hide the key from our children? We are turning our school-leavers who are philistine through no fault of their own. The curriculum council's brave decisions come not a moment too soon.

**...and moreover**  
**ALAN COREN**

Like most of you, I can remember when you could go to Surinam's *vijf en twintig* gulden item came gummed bushex, next day, to *The Times*.

Quite why our two greatest newspapers should have decided to do this I am not prepared to discuss, since it is generally unwise to put Mr Murdoch's good nature to the test, and I should not wish to find myself facing a golden handshake consisting of banknotes issued by the Confederate States of America. It may be that my employer, in this election year, is offering some sly subtextual advice to Norman Lamont, it may be that one of his acolytes — currently spreadeagled in the Gobi — recently sold some Murdoch company to a scaring man with one leg who hopped into his office with a big tin cashbox and Rupert is now making the most of a bad job by promotional redistribution, it may even be that, as far as the MGN pension fund is concerned, we still don't know the half of it, but whatever the reason, a vast amount of fiduciary infillness has this week been unloaded, willy-nilly, on to you, me, and countless other top people.

Things are as bad in Mozambique. Until quite recently, if you flashed a cent escudo note in a Maputo department store, assistants would flock. Stick a cem escudo on the counter, and you could walk out with an entire spring outfit plus matching titter. They would probably chuck in a pair of designer espadrilles. Not today, though. If you tried it today, they would put an arm-lock on you and call the bogies.

I have one such note before me as I write. But despite the fact that it has D Administrator written on it as well as D Governor, the signatures of these two pillars of Mozambique probity are now, I fear, quite meaningless. What it ought to have written on it is D Tempora and D Mores, because the only way you can get this 100-escudo note these days is by pulling it off the page of *The Sunday Times* with which it was, last weekend, distributed free.

The Maxwell brothers have blatantly defied Parliament's authority, argues Lord St John of Fawsley

## There is no right to silence

Select committees have extended the role of the Commons from the mechanical task of considering legislation to the exercising of real influence on the policies lying behind the statutes. This influence has been felt throughout Whitehall, and like other constitutional checks, it operates in advance. All ministers, from the cabinet downwards, have co-operated with the committees and been generous in devoting time to attending and preparing for their meetings.

Both the Commons and the executive have benefited from this detailed and painstaking work. Members of the committees have been able to subject long-term departmental policy to sustained and rational inquisition which would be out of the question in the gladiatorial atmosphere of the chamber of the House of Commons.

Yet long-term work is not the only function of the committees, and was never intended to be. When I introduced the select committee system, I certainly intended that the committees would from time to time tackle immediate issues in the news and give swift but responsible reac-

tions to them from a non-party, parliamentary point of view. In doing this, the committees are not sensationalising themselves, nor looking for publicity; they are exercising Parliament's informing function in an effective way, so as to concentrate the mind of the nation swiftly on issues of contemporary importance.

The decision of the Social Security Committee to investigate the Maxwell affair fits precisely within this principle. The pension rights of many hundreds of people are directly involved. Indirectly involved are millions of other people who until now have had unshaken confidence in the security of their private pension arrangements. If the committee had not investigated the matter, it might justifiably have been accused of a dereliction of duty.

The right of Members of Parliament to investigate matters of public concern is unlimited under our constitution. It is equal in range and scope to their right of freedom of speech, and both rights exist not for the gratification of egos, but to protect the liberties and rights of British subjects. As part of Parliament, select committees are equally unfettered and are subject only to such limitations as the Speaker interpreting the conventions of the House may judge it right to impose.



Silent testimony: Kevin (left) and Ian Maxwell on Monday

So in refusing to answer questions about their activities, the Maxwell brothers are directly challenging the status and authority of Parliament. They have been charged with no criminal offence and cannot therefore claim the benefit of the *sub judice* rule.

If they felt that interrogation by the committee would be unfair,

they could have approached the manner in a quite different way. They could have asked the select committee to exclude the television cameras; they could have requested the exclusion of members of the press; they could have asked for part of their evidence to be kept out of the report — and have thus avoided thwarting the committee's authority.

What can the committee

do to enforce its will? Once again the constitutional principle is clear. A select committee has never had any power to enforce a sanction such as imprisonment or other penalty. That belongs to the House of Commons as a whole.

The chairman of the select committee can now go to the floor of the House and put it to the Speaker that in the opinion of the committee a contempt of the House has been committed. The Speaker will then consider the matter, and if he decides there is a *prima facie* case that such an offence may have been

committed, he must give any motion put down by the chairman priority over all other business. The Whips offices have nothing to do with this: it is a matter for Parliament as a whole.

A motion might take the form of a declaration that a contempt of the House had been committed or that the manner should be referred to the committee of privy council. Alternatively the Speaker might refer the matter straight away to the committee, with a request that a reply be made within a limited period of time.

That is the constitutional position, but what should Frank Field and his committee actually do? In my opinion they must without delay raise the matter on the floor of the House. They must demand that Parliament assert its right to question any citizen in the land from the greatest to the smallest. If they fail to do so, they will be delivering a body-blow not only to the select committee system, but to parliamentary government itself.

The author is master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

## First hurdle for the presidency

**George Bush's toughest opponents in New Hampshire will not be his rival candidates, says Peter Stothard**

President Bush will today tread cautiously into the lair of Mrs Nancey Loeb, the wheelchair-bound widow who owns New Hampshire's only state-wide newspaper. Since 1952, no one has become president without first winning the New Hampshire primary, and next month's result will be especially critical for him.

In the past few weeks, *The Manchester Union Leader* has dubbed Mr Bush dumb, a betrayer and the great pretender to conservative values while strongly backing Patrick Buchanan, his Republican challenger. Mr Buchanan's support has now risen to 30 per cent among Republican voters in the state, only 16 points behind.

The power — in many cases amounting to monopoly — of the regional press in a country without a national press should not be underestimated, although the *Leader* has only a share in New Hampshire's king-making. It is rivaled by Manchester's statewide television station, WMUR, which practices a studied neutrality owing more to Lord Reid than William Loeb. Television advertisements are growing in importance, even in a state where voters take personal contact with potential presidents for granted.

Mrs Loeb sees the long-shot challenger as just the sort of courageous, gentlemanly, anti-tax, anti-abortion, anti-Japanese president the country needs. Flattering colour photographs of Mr Buchanan have dominated the front pages: he was even there on the day that the paper's dearest wish in its 129-year history came to pass and the Soviet Union died.

Mr Bush, by contrast, is caricatured, with his face obliterated on television like the victim in the Kennedy rape trial: "Maybe I was a little reckless, maybe I should have been more conservative, but that's no excuse: Patrick Buchanan assaulted me," the president is depicted as saying.



New Hampshire is an old-fashioned state, seemingly becoming more so by the day. Four years ago, when its backing for another conservative outsider, Pete Du Pont, seemed curmudgeonly and quaint.

The newspaper (motto: "There is nothing so powerful as truth") was then still housed in its old red-brick colonial, city-centre offices,

where Mrs Loeb's late husband, William, held court for 40 years. He always kept a gun in his desk draw, and liked to argue that Martin Luther King "really asked for what happened to him". An enthusiastic supporter of Joseph McCarthy, he once warned readers not to watch the television series *Roots*, because "the Russians are preparing the American mind to accept the black conquest of South Africa".

Today, the newspaper's old building, like much of downtown Manchester, is locked, empty and for sale. The recession has hit hard in New Hampshire, and its welfare rolls are rising faster than those of any other part of the country. The *Union Leader*, however, unlike much New Hampshire business which has probably gone for good, has moved to spectacular new offices on the city's edge. Among the elegantly framed photographs is one of Mrs Loeb discussing affairs of state with Ronald Reagan, her wheelchair decked with the stars and stripes. Business is not exactly booming, but political confidence is high. Mrs

Loeb is a kinder critic than her husband was. A loved and revered figure to many, she can plan her campaign against the president from a castle of which any giant-killer could be proud.

New Hampshire, which has lost much in the past five years, clings all the more tenaciously to its self-legislated right to hold the nation's first primary and so provide the all-important momentum, the appearance of doing better than expected, which can push a candidate to ultimate success. Originally the primary was early so that farmers could vote at their annual town meetings before the thaw made the roads impassable; by now it has become a source of enormous national power. This year, with the earlier Iowa caucuses made almost irrelevant by the inevitable victory of local senator Tom Harkin, its influence is all the greater.

George Bush will be all too aware that New Hampshire can launch unknowns into sudden stardom and hurt the over-confident. The careers of Eugene McCarthy, in 1968; George McGovern in 1972 and Gary Hart in 1984 were made here. Those of Lyndon Johnson, even though he did not officially fight the 1968 primary, and Edmund Muskie, who famously wept in front of the *Union Leader* building after 420 column inches of attacks from William Loeb in 1972, died here. That is why there is a "Bush blitz", for which volunteers have been asked to sign their names, and it why the president is here today.

Mr Bush has always been afraid of his right wing. As vice-president, in December 1985, he tried to appease the *Union Leader* by speaking at a Washington dinner in posthumous praise of William Loeb, his tormentor. Patrick Buchanan, who was in the audience that night, was one of the first people invited to dinner at the White House when Mr Bush became president. Whatever happens before February 18, neither Mrs Loeb nor Mr Buchanan is likely soon to repay the favour.

• Dennis Skinner will be absent from next week's "Desert Island Discs" 50th birthday party. Everyone still living who has ever appeared on the programme was invited, but Skinner has declined, declaring: "I don't believe in organised happiness." Nevertheless he has happy memories of his appearance. One of the eight discs Skinner requested was a record made in honour of Arthur Scargill, the first line of which ran: "It was in 1984 when the \*\*\* hit the fan". Strangely the usually comprehensive BBC record library claimed not to have the recording. Undeterred Skinner arrived in the studio bearing his own copy.

### British enigma

ALMOST universally accused of hypocrisy for presenting Labour's "Buy British" party political broadcasts last week, David Patten can at least claim that he practices what he preaches.

He has teamed up with Bill Forsyth to rescue an ambitious British film project. His intervention is timely.

After failing for two years to find



Politicians are used to being doctored by journalists, but the roles were reversed yesterday. As journalists emerged from the department of health in Whitehall after hearing William Waldegrave wax lyrical about the success of the government's health service reforms, there was Robin Cook on the pavement, buttonholing anyone who would listen with instant reaction.

### PC WPC

THE hard-pressed home secretary, Kenneth Baker, could do without any further discomfort at the moment, but he may live to regret agreeing to address the European conference of policewomen, at Branshill in March. No doubt the female guardians of law and order will listen politely to what Baker has to say. But Euro-policewomen will be far more interested in the woman who has become the Home Office's biggest embarrassment: Alison Halford, the assistant chief constable of Merseyside, now suspended for a second time and who is alleging sex discrimination in being overlooked for promotion.

Halford has become the cause célèbre of the European Network of Policewomen, which is organizing the conference at the police staff college. Two workshops en-

titled "Going to Law" have been

arranged to advise other delegates

how to sue their bosses in similar

discrimination cases. With many

of those bosses present, including

the home secretary and an army

of British chief constables, Halford

herself is also expected to make an

appearance, and is guaranteed a

heroine's welcome.

British enigma

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He has teamed up with Bill Forsyth

to rescue an ambitious British film

project. His intervention is timely.

After failing for two years to find

a producer, Forsyth has

now found one in the shape of

Ken Loach, director of *Land*

*and Freedom*.

The last verse gives the flavour:

Meanwhile the NHS lies sick,

Victims of privatised life,

Lock up before it's dead,

Let William Waldegrave survive,

Upon a nurse's pay, and give

His chief executive the wealth

To find for every case a bed,

And bring the patient back to health.

The poet has no second thoughts.

"I don't know what the fuss is

about. This was just a satire. My

verse complimented Mr Nichol."

Spare us the schoolmaster's sarn

when he is being critical.

The last verse gives the flavour:

Meanwhile the NHS lies sick,

Victims of privatised life,

Lock up before it's dead,

Let William Walde



## BUSH'S DOMESTIC TROUBLE

George Bush is still well-placed to be re-elected American president in November, but it is no longer a certainty. Not before time, he starts campaigning today in New Hampshire, the site of the first primary in five weeks' time. For the past few months he has been mired in a political swamp, sucked down by mishap at every step.

His visit to Japan, designed to create "jobs, jobs, jobs" for Americans, was a public relations disaster. It was not just the personal humiliation of his collapse at last Wednesday's official banquet — though, at 67, he cannot afford too many other questions about his health and stamina. He has also faced widespread criticism at home.

Protectionists complain he has failed to win any significant concessions from the Japanese while free-traders accuse him of special pleading on behalf of inefficient American motor companies. Even the anniversary this week of the start of the Gulf war has been less a celebration of military triumph than a reminder of the ambiguous nature of that victory, while President Saddam Hussein is still in power.

A new Gallup survey for USA Today and CNN shows that Mr Bush's approval rating from his supporters has fallen from a peak of 89 per cent just after the end of the war to 46 per cent. The proportion favouring Mr Bush against an unnamed Democratic challenger has dropped from 53 to 40 per cent last November to just 47 to 45 per cent now.

Mr Bush still receives high ratings for his handling of foreign affairs, but voters are less impressed and less interested. Following the end of the Cold War and the disappearance of the Soviet Union, the American public has begun to turn inwards. It is still a gross exaggeration to talk about a revival of isolationism — but the slogan of "America First" — proclaimed both by some conservative Republicans and by liberal Democrats — has a growing appeal with the economy apparently stuck in recession.

Mr Bush has appeared out of touch with these concerns more than two-thirds of

voters believing he should spend more time on domestic issues. The president needs to present a domestic strategy offering the hope of sustained growth. The Federal Reserve Board has cut interest rates sharply, and Mr Bush's advisers are preparing a package of tax cuts and investment incentives for his State of the Union message on January 28. Further cuts in defence spending are being planned to produce a peace dividend from the end of the Cold War that can be seen to be of benefit to ordinary Americans.

Unlike John Major's tight timetable in Britain, Mr Bush still has plenty of time for recovery to be established. Alan Greenspan, the Fed chairman, talked last Friday of the American economy being stalled rather than in a second leg of recession. So consumer and voter confidence could be recovering by the end of the summer.

Nor should Mr Bush's resilience be underrated. As his communications director said this week: "George Bush has been declared dead more times than Elvis Presley." Twice during the 1988 election his campaign appeared to be in serious trouble and twice he recovered strongly. This time Mr Bush is assured of the Republican nomination, even though Pat Buchanan, his challenger from the nationalist right, could do him a disservice in the strongly conservative state of New Hampshire. On the Democratic side, Governor Bill Clinton of Arkansas and Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa are ahead of the pack (now down to five) but neither has shown a nationwide appeal.

There is no reason yet why Mr Bush should not bounce back; Ronald Reagan only had a slightly higher approval rating at this stage of the 1984 campaign. But a good showing by Mr Buchanan next month could produce a shift in Mr Bush's approach towards economic nationalism, to appease the demands for protection coming from both ends of the political spectrum. Mr Bush's current political difficulties may have costs for the rest of the world which last much longer than this year's campaign.

## BUTTRESS TO THE LAW

In his *Theory of Moral Sentiments*, Adam Smith said that justice "is the main pillar which holds up the entire edifice". The Adam Smith Institute highlights this quotation in the introduction to its report today in praise of the latest legalogue, called alternative dispute resolution. But its enthusiasm for "ADR" (as legal jargon has it) rests less upon the Scottish high-mindedness of its mentor than upon ADR's impeccable free-market credentials. Human ingenuity, bred of profit motive out of human need, is spontaneously filling a gap that the state system of justice had neglected. The ghost of Adam Smith can only smile.

Courts are inefficient and costly. The adversarial system amplifies grievances, minimises compromise, and therefore maximises lawyers' bills. Going to law is attractive only to lawyers and those of them with bottomless purses, either poor people on unlimited legal aid or rich corporations or individuals to whom money is no object. Even then, the point may well be reached where exasperated principals, feeling more and more like litigants in *Jardine v. Jardine*, ask their legal advisers: "Surely there must be a better way?"

What fuelled the earliest experiments at ADR in the United States was a growing awareness of "the pathology of litigation", as American lawyers termed a propensity for which their race is world famous. When they went to trial, legal actions often ignored the underlying commercial realities, mainly the fact that the parties had to go on living and doing business with each other whatever the outcome. The legal system seemed designed to emphasise confrontation, with a winner and a loser and consequent bad feeling. What was lacking was an alternative to the adversarial system that would emphasise solution-finding by informal negotiation and conciliation.

Since its American origination ADR has struck a chord in Britain, where there was already a tradition of quasi-judicial arbitration. The most recent grafts onto that tree are the industrial tribunals, meant to be accessible

to lay people without professional assistance. But lawyers have a way of taking over anything designed to be quick, informal and "lay", and milking it for their own purposes. Today few would dare go before an industrial tribunal without benefit of a lawyer. Lawyers, naturally, volunteer their services as third parties in ADR systems too, but there is nothing intrinsic to ADR that gives them a monopoly. Where the dispute is financial, an accountant can help; where it concerns property, a surveyor.

The Adam Smith Institute's endorsement of ADR as economically correct will help the system's acceptability in free-market boardrooms, as the Bar Council's endorsement has already done in barristers' chambers. But some of the most important blots on British justice are those which deprive ordinary people of their legal rights by delays and prohibitive costs. Most conspicuous are those areas of law not covered by legal aid, where rights remain the prerogative only of the rich who can afford to claim them.

Libel is one notorious area outside legal aid. Lord Justice Neill's report on defamation last year praised the proposal, put to his enquiry on behalf of *The Times*, for the ADR settlement of suitable libel cases where both parties choose it. This would extend the search for a solution to readers' grievances beyond the scope of the internal "ombudsman" system most newspapers already operate. A scheme is now being discussed by national newspaper legal advisers. ADR is ideal for such conflicts. It would close the gap between the few who may win large damages because they can afford to fight a legal action and the many who have no prospect of any recompense because they cannot.

Technically, ADR is closer to mediation than arbitration, for the purpose of the intervening neutral third party is not to impose a settlement but to suggest one. The search is not for a "right" answer in accordance with abstract legal principles, but for a compromise both sides can live with. ADR may not quite be a pillar of the system, but it makes a useful flying buttress.

Passenger compensation scheme could apparently cost British Rail £270 million a year. Will the money come from government? Not a chance. The cash will have to be found either from existing investment, or directly from the passenger through higher ticket prices. Either way, the passengers will bear the cost, in lower safety standards, shabbier trains, a poorer service or more expensive tickets.

The last is the most likely. Fares will rise by more than they would otherwise have done, to cover the compensation costs. That means each passenger on each train journey will in effect be paying an insurance premium to BR. If the train arrives on time, that premium will be lost, just as a travel insurance premium vanishes when a holiday is uneventful. If the worst happens, and the train is badly delayed, the passenger will be able to make a claim.

But if BR is to charge the passengers extra for this, as logically it should, how is its scheme any different from the insurance that

## Labour's plans for tax, employment and insurance

From Mr Peter V. Facy

Sir, The Labour party assures us that "no one earning less than £20,000 will pay more income tax". But the careful use of the word "earning" conceals the fact that Labour plans to introduce a 9 per cent surcharge on investment income. I am under pensionable age and live on dividend income of £18,000, which comes from savings I made when I was younger and paying top rates of income tax. Under Labour my income-tax bill will increase by 29 per cent.

Labour justifies this impost on the grounds of fairness: since employees have to pay a 9 per cent National Insurance contribution (NIC), investors should pay a similar amount. But the employee gets specific benefits in return for NIC payments, including unemployment, sickness and invalidity benefits, maternity pay, and retirement pension. None of these is available to investors. How can it be fair to pay equal contributions for unequal benefits?

When I recently put this point in a letter to John Smith, the shadow Chancellor, he replied that he was unable to add to the above justification. He could have said that investors get certain tax breaks that are not available to employees (such as personal equity plans, business expansion schemes and the capital gains tax exemption); this would have been a good argument if it were not for the fact that Labour intends to slash them.

For a party which plans to resurrect British industry by getting more and better investment, cutting the return to savers is indeed a master stroke.

Yours faithfully,  
P. V. FACY,  
134 Sandyhurst Lane,  
Ashford, Kent.  
January 8.

From Mr Geoffrey Brown

Sir, John Smith says he does not understand why National Insurance contributions should stop at just above the £20,000 mark. He has obviously not been let into the secret that these contributions are not supposed to be a tax, often levied on the basis of ability to pay, as opposed to an insurance premium, charged at a rate reflecting the risk and the benefit to be received.

Is it not time to stop this silly pretence and amalgamate the tax and National Insurance contributions? The administrative savings would be considerable, the electorate would be able to understand the implications of changes in the fiscal system more readily and comparisons with our trading partners would be easier.

Mr Lamont might like to consider

### Annigoni portrait

From Lady Egerton

Sir, Your Diary reports (January 9, 11) on the Fishmongers' Company's reluctance to lend their Annigoni portrait of the Queen to the forthcoming exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum marking the 40th anniversary of her accession to the throne.

Their refusal has meant that we were asked and have agreed to lend our copy (by Guernier) which hangs in the entrance hall of our residence.

The Fishmongers cite the possibility of damage as one of the reasons for not lending the picture. If damage is a risk from the Fishmongers' Hall to the V&A what about the risks in transit from and back to Rome?

Yours faithfully,  
CAROLINE EGERTON,  
British Embassy, Rome.  
January 13.

### Splinter groups

From Major Oliver Crocombe

Sir, Could we perhaps mark the 150th anniversary on March 13 this year of the death of that inventive and, needless to say, ill-rewarded officer, Lieutenant-General Henry Shrapnel (1761-1842), by persuading media men and women not to refer to every metal splitter by his name?

The habit is almost as irritating as the inevitable reference to every naval, military or air force barracks, station, camp, depot, headquarters, college, school, office or whatever as a "base".

Yours faithfully,  
OLIVER CROCOMBE,  
Castle House,  
Enmore,  
Bridgwater, Somerset.  
January 11.

### Weaving the Web

From Mr K. P. Platt

Sir, I fear that Bishop David Konstant's letter (January 8) will do little to allay the concern felt by Catholic parents, parish priests, and not a few bishops, regarding the use of *Weaving the Web* as resource books for religious education in Catholic schools. He both misunderstands the criticisms of the books and greatly exaggerates the support that the Vatican Congregation of the Clergy gives to his views.

Their letter, dated November 19 of last year, was, in fact, addressed to myself and not, as readers might assume, to the education department of the Conference of Bishops. In no way does it approve of *Weaving the Web*, but merely allows that it may be

abolishing National Insurance contributions, reducing the single personal allowance to £3,000 and raising the basic rate of income tax to 33 per cent. This gives a bonus of up to £179 on incomes up to £20,300 and will claw back at the rate of 8 per cent on the next income band up to £27,000 — i.e., a maximum £57, taking into account the earlier savings.

We would then be left with two tax rates: 33 per cent and 40 per cent levied from £3,000 and £27,000 respectively. The current employers' National Insurance contributions would be collected by the Inland Revenue as the more properly named "payroll tax".

Of course, some of the major beneficiaries of this scheme will be charities in receipt of covenant income. The present illusion of a 25 per cent basic rate denies them their proper reward.

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY BROWN,  
9B Pond Road, SE3.  
January 13.

From the Chairman of the National Family Trust

Sir, Your leader, "Basic tax principles" (January 11), has point but fails to acknowledge that a simple increase in adult tax allowances beyond the rate of inflation, albeit better than reducing the standard rate of tax, would do little or nothing for families. Children, the incapacitated and those who care for them would remain grossly disenfranchised.

Radical and creative reforms have become necessary, involving merging the tax and benefits systems. That process aims to make net family income reflect the responsibility which householders carry for their dependants, and it should include new community work and training schemes in exchange for enhanced benefits. That could reduce unemployment, eliminate the poverty trap and allow social spending to enhance self-esteem and family cohesion.

Social commitments supported by financial incentives is the principle which you should encourage the political parties to debate at this time, not minor adjustments which do nothing for children and families.

Yours sincerely,  
RICHARD WHITFIELD,  
Chairman,  
National Family Trust,  
101 Queen Victoria Street, EC4.  
January 13.

From Mr Russell Hunt

Sir, Throughout the recent debate on Labour's proposed removal of the upper limit for employees' National Insurance contributions no one poli-

Business letters, page 25

## Form and function

From Mr Stephen Gardiner

Sir, Interesting as Mr Will Alsop's observations may be ("Colour him a non-specialist", Arts, January 6), the dictum that "form follows function" was not Le Corbusier's. My understanding is that the attribution arose from a widely read tract by Louis Sullivan, *The Tall Office Building Artistically Considered*, published in 1896.

Le Corbusier in fact found the inference conveyed by the use of the word "function" thoroughly distasteful, and said as much:

This frightful word was born under other skies than those I have loved — those where the sun shines supreme.

It is important to correct this misleading misconception. Sullivan's assertion, taken out of context, was probably misunderstood, and may in any case have been derived from other sources.

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN GARDINER,  
Stephen Gardiner Architects,  
203 King's Road, SW3.  
January 7.

military-appointed president, still keeps his knighthood. Furthermore, a media battle now emerging in Fiji between Rabuka and the military-reinstated prime minister, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, is revealing definite evidence of Mara's involvement in planning this treasonous coup.

If the Queen's honorary titles can be revoked, as in the case of Sir Arthur Henry, former premier of the Cook Islands, then why has the government been so inconsistent in allowing this affront to continue for so long?

Yours faithfully,  
J. PRAKASH,  
International Fiji Movement,  
77 Strathearn Avenue, Leicester.  
January 11.

Catholic teachings as original sin, the divinity of Christ, the real presence in the Eucharist, the Sunday Mass obligation, the virtue of chastity, the issue of abortion, etc. are not so much as mentioned in it.

Critics fear that this is because authors and supporters of the resource do not consider these things to be of importance to the faith which we send our children to Catholic schools to learn, particularly since we have been given no assurance that teaching on these matters will be included in the undisclosed complementary "parts" of the religious education programme.

Yours sincerely,  
KENNETH PLATT,  
47 Heathurst Road,  
Sanderstead, Surrey.  
January 8.

## UK's own form of 'granny dumping'

From Mr Geoffrey C. Atkinson

Sir, "Granny dumping" (report, January 10) is already a common phenomenon in the UK, only we call it "community care".

Unlike the Americans, we do not drive our old people to hospitals and leave them with notes round their necks. We leave them at home, throw in meals-on-wheels a few days a week, arrange visits from overstretched community nurses and home helps, and expect charities and non-existent families to do the rest.

We provide inadequate social security to allow old people to choose good-quality residential or nursing care, and as from April next year, central government is throwing the whole hot potato back, almost certainly with inadequate funds, to local authorities.

As a coup de grace the Audit Commission has now recommended that old people should not block long-term hospital beds since "community care is cheaper". Of course it is in its present form, but to the frail, confused, elderly person it is a form of squalid solitary confinement that is a shame and a threat to all of us as the population ages.

Is there any chance, I wonder, that one of the political parties will have the courage to put the care of our ageing population high on the agenda for the forthcoming election?

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY C. ATKINSON  
(Director),  
Motor and Allied Trades  
Benefvolent Fund,  
Lynwood, Sunninghill,  
Ascot, Berkshire.  
January 10.

## From the Director of Carers National Association

Sir, I was pleased to see that Sarah Harper's address to the Institute of British Geographers pointed out the unacceptable burdens which are placed on family carers. We should not overstate the danger of "granny dumping", since most families continue to take on the care of elderly relatives either for reasons of love or duty.

What better route to unemployment could have been devised than to punish firms for employing people? How better to suppress the quality of British goods and services than to insist that the higher the skill and thus pay of the employee, the greater the punishment?

It is undoubtedly true, though, that burdens on family carers are increasing while the resources available to support them are decreasing. We simply cannot continue to exploit carers in this way — if we do, "granny dumping" may well develop into an epidemic.

If you have cared for an elderly person for ten or even 20 years, it is not unreasonable that there comes a point where you feel you simply cannot go on. When carers reach this point, many find that no help at all is available to them. It is hardly surprising that a few feel like "dumping".

Yours faithfully,  
JILL PITKEATHLEY,  
Director,  
Carers National Association,  
29 Chilworth Mews, W2.  
January 10.

## Smoking and health

From the Reverend D. Howell-Jones

Sir, Mr Richard M. Hughes (letter, January 4) misses the point. He may not wish to smoke Turkish cigarettes — nor do I, and we are not obliged to — but if we are unwilling to defend the freedoms of others (in which, perhaps, we see little merit) who will defend our freedoms when they are threatened?

Yours faithfully,  
D. HOWELL-JONES,  
71 Christchurch Road,  
Norwich, Norfolk.  
January 4.

## Musical tradition



## COURT CIRCULAR

**SANDRINGHAM** January 14: By command of The Queen, the Earl Howe, Lord in Waiting, was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon upon the departure of the President of the Italian Republic, and bade farewell to His Excellency on behalf of Her Majesty. The Lady Susan Hussey has succeeded Lady Abel Smith as Lady-in-Waiting to The Queen.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE** January 14: The Duchess of York, Patron, this morning launched Tommy's Campaign in aid of The Baby Fund at a reception in the

Governor's Hall, St Thomas's Hospital, London SE1.

Miss Lucy Manns and Captain Alexander Baillie-Hamilton were in attendance.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**

January 14: The Princess of Wales, Patron, British Association, visited the association's London Video Project at 25 Cockspur Street, London SW1.

Wing Commander David Barton, RAF, was in attendance.

Princess Michael of Kent celebrated her birthday today.

**Birthdays today**

Mr Robert Armstrong, racehorse trainer, 48; Mrs Margaret Beckett, MP, 49; Mr Chuck Berry, singer, 66; Mr Frank Bough, broadcaster, 59; Mr Neil Crosson, director, Science Museum, 53; Lord Dacre of Glanton, 78; Miss Jane Drablate, assistant managing director, BBC Television, 45; Mrs Eileen Elliot of Harwood, 89; Mr Anthony Forbes, joint senior master, Caveney and Company, 54; Professor Clifford Formson, veterinarian, 85; Professor P.C.C. Garmham, parasitologist, 91; Sir Percival Griffiths, Indian Civil Servant, 93; The Hon Mary

Hogg, QC, 45; Sir John Junior, journalist, 73; Lord Lever of Manchester, 78; Lord Simon of Glaisdale, 81; Mr T.C. Steffensen, former MP, 87; Mr John Terraine, author, 71; Sir John Wordin, barrister, 68.

## Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as Chancellor of London University, will attend a presentation ceremony at the Albert Hall at 2.00, and as a Member of the Court of Assistants of the Woolmen's Company, she will attend a livery dinner at Painters' Hall at 7.00.

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr N.R.B. Andrew and Miss F.R. White The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of the late Mr R. Andrew and of Mrs W.O. Farver of Ferndale, West Sussex, and Fiona, daughter of Mr Graham White of Cambridge, and of Mrs Rosemary White, of Deddington, Oxfordshire.

Mr S.A. Briscoe and Miss K.E. Chapman The engagement is announced between Simon, younger son of Mr and Mrs Peter Briscoe, of Copse Glen, Chagford, Devon, and Katie, only daughter of Mr and Mrs James Chapman, of Kensington, London.

Mr J.G. Clarke and Miss F.A. Bailey The engagement is announced between John, younger son of Mr and Mrs David Clarke, of Ilford, Essex, and Fiona, younger daughter of Captain and Mrs David Bailey, of East Meon, Hampshire.

Mr R.B. Coates and Miss R.E. Bennett The engagement is announced between Richard, third son of Mrs Patricia Coates, of Oulton Park, Cheshire, and Rosanagh, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Valentine Bennett, of Scrothorpe, Powys.

Captain J.M.E. Cobb and Miss E.L.C. Dunford The engagement is announced between James Martin Edward Cobb, 13th/18th Royal Hussars, only son of Commander and Mrs John Cobb, of Bridge, East Sussex, and Emma Lucy Cressida, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Dunford, of Lymington, Hampshire.

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**8.00** *Cheats* (54118) 8.30 BBC Breakfast News (50387405)  
**8.05** *Kirky*. Robert Kirky-Sik chairs a studio discussion on the work of Clive House, astrologer and psychic (757318) 8.30 *Hot Chicks* (757318)  
**8.30** *News*, regional news and weather (4260711) 10.05 *Playdays* (s)  
**8.45** *Family*. Family game show (s) (1255485) 10.35 *Weather*  
**8.45** *News*, regional news and weather 11.05 *Holiday* (r) ('Ceefax' (701946))  
**8.45** *Today*, introduced by Miriam Stoppard and Achim Willa. *Breakfast News*, regional news and weather at 8.00 (7573225)  
**8.45** *Parade*. Music and chat hosted by Joti Spokes (3074547)  
**8.45** *Regional News and Weather* (72803047)  
**8.45** *One O'Clock News and Weather* (469911)  
**8.45** *Neighbours* (Ceefax) (75575478) 1.50 *Going for Gold*, Henry Kelly with another round of the general knowledge quiz game with European contestants (7196414)  
**8.45** *Marine Five-O* Sun-kissed police drama series (1222283)  
**8.45** *Help Your Child with Science*. The first of a new series, Jerry Barrett presents simple home experiments to teach children about water (1512079) 2.15 *Pronto*, magazine series for the older viewer (131915)  
**8.45** *Banana Man*. Caron (r) (4283389) 1.55 *Carrie's Trail*, Stuart Bradley visits the Lake District National Park and investigates the wildlife of Lake Windermere (5504056) 4.10 *Fidelity Foods*, Eric Carton, adventures of bird that can change colour at will (1893185) 4.20 *Technology*, Charlotte Colman with part three of Joan Aiken's story, *Night Birds* (r), *Mauritius* (5594212) 4.35 *Bucky O'Hare*, science fiction animation (3020585)  
**8.45** *Newsworld* (759955) 5.10 *Archie's Game*, Episode two of the soap comedy thriller (Ceefax) (s) (615738) Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster  
**8.45** *Six O'Clock News* with Anne Ford and Andrew Harvey (Ceefax) 1. Weather (841)  
**8.45** *Regional News* magazine (221) Northern Ireland: Neighbours 2.00 Match of the Day – The Road to Wembley, Live coverage of the postponed FA Cup third round match at Elland Road between Leeds United and Manchester United (84846)  
**8.45** *Nine O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (8467)



Young Winston Churchill, right, with his mother (9.30pm)

**9.30** *Churchill*. Having set out the life of Sir Winston Churchill in print, the historian Martin Gilbert now offers a three-part television version. Gilbert's method in his multi-volume biography was to collect and sort the 'material' and 'present' it largely without comment. He takes the same approach here. Churchill offers plenty of information but is short on analysis; it tells us what Churchill did but seldom explains why. Tonight's opening programme, covering years 1874 to 1940, also suffers from trying to cram too much into too short a space. Big events are dismissed in a few seconds and there is no time to fill in the wider context. The film is stronger on the anecdotal level. There are revealing contributions from Churchill's family and secretaries and a dinner guest tells how he watched his host consuming a steak and kidney pie, a cigar, a glass of brandy and a chocolate, all more or less at the same time. (Ceefax) (71559)  
**10.30** *Sportalgift* introduced by Desmond Lynott. Football: highlights from tonight's FA Cup third round replay and the game at Elland Road between Leeds United and Manchester United. Rugby Union: a preview of the five nations championship which begins at the weekend when England return to the scene of their World Cup semi-final triumph at Twickenham to play the Calcutta Cup match against Scotland (605329) 12.05 *Weather* (6168573)

(24580177) 8.15-8.30, *Spindles* (7573232)

**HTV WEST**

As London except: 1.05-2.35 *The Sun Report* (2524260) 6.00 *London Tonight* (738) 8.30-9.30 *Blackout* (559) 11.45 *Met'n* (403860) 12.40 *Local News* (Ceefax) (7557135) 1.35 *Donahue* (559) 2.30 *News* (Ceefax) (7557136) 2.45 *Short Story*, *Finn* (r) (24690177) 5.10-5.30 *Jobberd* (5773245)

**CENTRAL**

As London except: 2.20-2.55 *Gardening Time* (7224325) 2.55-3.15 *The Young Doctors* (5529333) 3.25-3.35 *Tell Me the Truth* (5529334) 3.45 *London Tonight* (738) 5.30-5.45 *Blackout* (559) 11.45 *Met'n* (403860) 12.40 *Local News* (Ceefax) (7557135) 1.35 *Donahue* (559) 2.30 *News* (Ceefax) (7557136) 2.45 *Short Story*, *Finn* (r) (24690177) 5.10-5.30 *Jobberd* (5773245)

**SCOTLAND**

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**GRANADA**

As London except: 2.20-2.55 *Cooling* (s) (42234229) 3.20-3.30 *Granada Tonight* (559) 5.30-5.45 *Local News* (Ceefax) (7557135) 1.35 *Donahue* (559) 2.30 *News* (Ceefax) (7557136) 2.45 *Short Story*, *Finn* (r) (24690177) 5.10-5.30 *Jobberd* (5773245)

**ANGRIA**

As London except: 2.20-2.55 *Gardening Time* (7224325)

**TYNE TIES**

As London except: 1.50-1.55 *Graham Kerr* (5024757) 2.20-2.55 *Believing People* (5242318) 5.10-5.40 *Home and Away* (5242318) 6.00-6.30 *Coast to Coast* (758) 6.30-7.00 *Blackout* (559) (s)

**HTV WALES**

As HTV Wales except: 0.00-6.30 *Wales at War* (Ceefax) (7557135) 1.35 *Donahue* (559) 2.30 *News* (Ceefax) (7557136) 2.45 *Short Story*, *Finn* (r) (24690177) 5.10-5.30 *Jobberd* (5773245)

**SCOTTISH**

As London except: 2.15-2.30 *Blackout* (559) 2.50-3.15 *Relax* (Ceefax) (7557135) 3.25-3.35 *Local News* (Ceefax) (7557136) 4.00-4.30 *Scotland Today* (559) 7.00-7.30 *Am-Police* (559) 11.45 *The Law and Harry McGivern* (559) 12.40 *Donahue* (559) 13.45 *2.05* (Ceefax) (7557135) 14.45 *Night Heat* (559) 15.45 *Central News* (Ceefax) (7557136) 16.45 *Stage* (559) 17.45 *What Are You Talking About? At the Comedy Store* (24690177) 22.45 *Weather* (6168573) 4.40-5.30 *Central Jobberd* (5773245)

**YORKSHIRE**

As London except: 1.30-2.30 *The Young Doctors* (5529333) 3.25-3.35 *Blackout* (559) 5.30-5.45 *Local News* (Ceefax) (7557135) 1.35 *Donahue* (559) 2.30 *News* (Ceefax) (7557136) 2.45 *Short Story*, *Finn* (r) (24690177) 5.10-5.30 *Jobberd* (5773245)

**ULSTER**

As London except: 1.50-1.55 *Sons and Daughters* (5024757) 2.20-2.55 *Roman on the Road* (5024757) 5.20-5.35 *Take the High Road* (5024757) 5.35-5.45 *Who's the Bow? The Loser* (5024757) 6.00-6.30 *Am-Police* (5024757) 11.45 *The Law and Harry McGivern* (5024757) 12.40 *Donahue* (5024757) 13.45 *2.05* (Ceefax) (7557135) 14.45 *Night Heat* (5024757) 15.45 *Central News* (Ceefax) (7557136) 16.45 *Stage* (5024757) 17.45 *What Are You Talking About? At the Comedy Store* (24690177) 22.45 *Weather* (6168573) 4.40-5.30 *Central Jobberd* (5773245)

**PA**

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**CHANNEL 4**

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**CHANNEL 5**

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**CHANNEL 7**

As London except: 1.30-2.30 *The Young Doctors* (5529333) 3.25-3.35 *Blackout* (559) 5.30-5.45 *Local News* (Ceefax) (7557135) 1.35 *Donahue* (559) 2.30 *News* (Ceefax) (7557136) 2.45 *Short Story*, *Finn* (r) (24690177) 5.10-5.30 *Jobberd* (5773245)

**CHANNEL 9**

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**CHANNEL 10**

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**CHANNEL 11**

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**CHANNEL 18**

As London except: 1.30-2.30 *The Young Doctors* (5529333) 3.25-3.35 *Blackout* (559) 5.30-5.45 *Local News* (Ceefax) (7557135) 1.35 *Donahue* (559) 2.30 *News* (Ceefax) (7557136) 2

# Artist defends Mickey Mouse in the Gulf

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER TREVOR



By RICHARD CORK

WHEN Paul Nash visited the Western Front as a war artist in 1918, he decided that his work should convey the "bitter truth" of the horrors he witnessed. John Keane was driven by a similar need after returning from his five-week period as Nash's present-day successor in the Gulf War. "The environmental damage which I saw in Kuwait just after the liberation made me think of Nash's paintings," he said.

Most of the 50 pictures he has produced since his return transmit his feelings with raw, uninhibited vigour. Working in a swift and urgent manner, directly expressed in the rough and, at times wild, handling of pigment, Keane was determined to escape from a bland vision of war. His titles are scrawled across the surface of the paintings

## 'Coward' conveys bitter truth

like graffiti on a street corner. The images are equally blunt and disconcerting.

However bizarre and hallucinatory his images may appear, they all arise from Keane's alert observations while wandering round the front line. In one large painting, called *The Death Squad*, four soldiers walk through the desert with scarves tied tightly round their mouths. They are protecting themselves from the stench of the body inside the bag they are carrying, and their sunglasses disguise the emotion they must feel.

Keane, by contrast, does not flinch from exposing his emotions. "I'm not a pacifist, I'm a coward," he said, and his fear is vividly conveyed in a painting entitled *Portrait of the*

*Artist in a Gas Alert*. Sitting in a lorry with the mask clamped on his face, Keane waits for the threatened attack. Only his eyes are visible, but they are enlarged with terror.

A postcard reproduction of Sargent's celebrated painting from the first world war, *Gassed*, has been stuck upside down on the canvas. In Sargent's picture, the blinded, helplessly vomiting victims of a gas attack stagger in a tragic frieze towards the dressing station. Keane knew that a similar fate could easily have befallen the soldiers whose company he shared near the Kuwait border.

Time and again, Keane was aware of government censorship at the front. In a *Freedom of the Press*, a cameraman attempts to film the

aftermath of a Scud missile attack, but he is flanked like a prisoner by two soldiers, and another official holds up an arm to prevent him filming the annihilation beyond.

No such constraints hampered Keane back in his London studio. The most openly distressing work he produced is a triptych, *Askes to Ashes*, where three appallingly charred corpses sprawl in the blood-caked sand. Keane's paint is at its thickest and most churned here, vividly expressing the hideous degradation of bodies incinerated in war recognition. "I only saw one dead figure lying in the desert at a distance," he admitted, but it was clearly enough to sum up the human cost of the war.

The financial cost is pitifully

reaction is a little premature." The work which has sparked the most furious reaction, *Mickey Mouse at the Front*, features the Disney character sitting grinning on what appears to be a toilet in the sand next to a shopping trolley full of anti-tank missiles.

But Mr Keane, aged 37, of Highbury, north London, said: "If, unfortunately, people get upset by it, I can

only say there is no reason for them to be upset. It is not intended to provoke or upset. The paintings are done as my response to what I witnessed when I was there. I found it a profoundly disturbing experience."

*Mickey Mouse at the Front* could lead to legal action by Walt Disney, whose executives are deciding if the painting infringes the company's strict copyright rules.

summarised in *We Are Making A New World Order*, which takes as its starting point the title of Nash's most famous image. Keane's picture, bordered by dollar bills, shows a GI standing in a horrifically ruined landscape. Burning oil wells fill the horizon with noxious smoke. They reappear in the colossal *The Legacy*, which shows people rejoicing in post-liberation Kuwait. Amid the cheering crowds, a smiling mother lifts a child's hand skywards. The small fingers clutch a gun, symbolising that the war's end has not terminated the violence and bitterness engendered by the conflict.

Keane's impassioned and outspoken will retain a painful, acrid relevance long after the events he records have receded into history.

One year on, pages 10-11

The paintings, which go on display at the Imperial War Museum in March, have been described by relatives of those injured or killed in the Gulf as "an insult". However, Mr Keane said: "I think the

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# THE TIMES BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 15 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Chairman chosen and chief executive sought

## Ill health forces Fisons chief to step down

By MARTIN WALLER

JOHN Kerridge has quit abruptly from the helm of Fisons, the pharmaceuticals and garden products group, blaming ill-health.

Mr Kerridge, aged 57, was chairman, chief executive and the main architect of the revival in the company's fortunes during the Eighties.

The company was insisting last night that there was only a tangential link between Mr Kerridge's departure and the company's recent woes, capped last month by news of a £65 million hole in profits this year because of problems with the American regulatory authorities.

Mr Kerridge has had a slight heart problem and had been suffering from high blood pressure. Patrick Egan, the non-executive director who is taking over as executive chairman, said: "This obviously got progressively worse over the course of the last months. I'm not a medical man, but I would have thought it was not unaffected by the stress he's had in recent times because of the downturn in profits."

Mr Egan conceded last night that the search for a new chief executive had only just begun and no swift resolu-

tion was expected. Both internal and external candidates were being considered.

Mr Egan added that late last year, Mr Kerridge had accepted in principle a split in his roles, and the company started the search for a new chief executive before his condition deteriorated further over the Christmas and new year period.

Medical advice at the start of the year had been that he should leave the company entirely. Mr Kerridge was "incommunicado indefinitely" last night according to Fisons, and not at the Ipswich headquarters. Compensation terms are being agreed.

The company is denying market rumours that Mr Kerridge had come under pressure to split the roles because of its troubles. Mr Egan said: "The decision had been made in view of the former chairman's impending retirement in February 1992, to clear up the matter of succession."

The decision to seek a new chief executive had been made by the non-executive directors, including Mr Egan and Sir Philip Harris, the carpet retailer. A Fisons statement said: "The board wishes it to be clearly understood that there has not been pressure on Mr Kerridge, either from his fellow board members or from our principal institutional shareholders for him to take this course of action. The decision is a med-

ical one" and entirely his own.

Market-watchers, however, believe there had been some behind-the-scenes lobbying for a split in the roles, given the difficulties the company has faced. The share price had fallen from above 55 in July to a 235p low on December 27. Yesterday, they continued to rally, up 11p to 365p, 18p ahead since Monday morning.

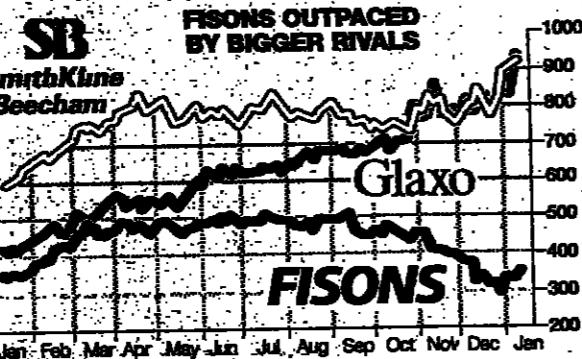
Mr Kerridge engineered the transformation of Fisons into a higher margin pharmaceutical business from one best known for its horticultural and gardening products.

An attempt to find a chief executive four years ago came to nothing, and the candidates were not even presented to the non-executive directors.

Mr Kerridge did not always enjoy a good relationship with the City, and the company's fading fortunes were not helped by apparently contradictory statements to institutions on the problems caused by the American regulatory authorities.

Problems came to a head on December 11 with news of a ban on two drugs, Opticrom, a hay fever medicine, and Imferon, a blood product, that would hit this year's profits. The company denied allegations that included the suggestion that Imferon had been stored in beer kegs.

Comment, page 25



Overall view: Sir Lewis Robertson, at the Stakis St Ermin's, London, yesterday, says the group is unlikely to fulfil its potential this year

## Threat of strike drives down mark

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE mark fell sharply against the dollar, as well as the pound and other ERM currencies after IG Metall, the German metalworkers union, announced a formal strike ballot in support of its 10.5 per cent pay demand.

Although IG Metall's announcement was widely expected, it hit the German currency hard in a day of hectic trading, driven by many confusing factors, including a small rise in Spanish interest rates, and slightly weaker than expected economic statistics published in America and Britain.

By the end of trading in London, the pound had risen to almost DM2.85 from its Monday close of DM2.8380, while the dollar stood at DM1.5970, up more than 1 per cent on the day.

In Britain, the Central Statistical Office announced that output prices for manufactured goods rose in December by 0.1 per cent, giving a year-on-year increase of 5.0 per cent, down from 5.1 per cent.

German deadline, page 23

Comment, page 25

International, as chief executive of the company.

The pre-tax loss included £43.7 million of exceptional costs and provisions. Pre-tax profits last time were £30.6 million. Sir Lewis said the comparisons were distorted by the inclusion of £18 million of disposal profits in the previous year's results.

He said: "These distorting factors aside, it is the case, in common with most of the leisure industry, that Stakis experienced a marked downturn in trading almost throughout the year, especially in hotels and property."

Sir Lewis said he had taken strong corrective action and implemented a recovery strategy since his appointment. This aims to concentrate on hotels and healthcare as the core businesses, divest some leisure activities and withdraw from commercial property.

In December, the management team was boosted by the appointment of David Michels, previously with Hilton

International, as chief executive of the company.

The pre-tax loss included £43.7 million of exceptional costs and provisions. Pre-tax profits last time were £30.6 million. Sir Lewis said the comparisons were distorted by the inclusion of £18 million of disposal profits in the previous year's results.

Sir Lewis said the group's main bankers had given assurances of appropriate support and a standstill agreement to end in March 1992 had been accepted by all Stakis' bankers.

The hotel division made

profits of £7.2 million, against

£27.6 million, which included

£16.8 million of disposal profits.

Healthcare improved its

profits from £1.53 million to

£1.97 million, and the leisure

division profits grew from

£8.75 million to £9.64 mil-

lion. Property made a loss of

£1.11 million, compared with

profits of £2.94 million. The

sale of the division has been

put in the hands of Co-ordinated Land & Estates, an outside specialist.

The group has withdrawn

its casinos from sale after it

Tempus, page 24

## Stakis unveils £47m loss

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

ANDROS Stakis, deposed chief executive of the Stakis leisure group built up by his father, is to share a £700,000 compensation payment for lack of office with two other former directors of the company.

The payment will be detailed in the group's accounts, which are due out within weeks.

Sir Lewis Robertson, the company doctor brought in as chairman of the group in March, unveiled a pre-tax loss of £47.4 million for the year to end September, and warned shareholders that they were unlikely to see the group fulfil its full potential in the current year.

The mark was also weakened by an unexpected decision by the Bank of Spain to lift its key repo rate to 12.65 per cent from 12.5 per cent. Dealers said the move supported the peseta by making it clear that the Spanish authorities were determined to keep their currency strong.

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THE POUND	
US dollar	1.8070 (+0.0090)
German mark	2.8419 (+0.0068)
Exchange index	90.4 (+0.2)
Sterling of official dollar (£/pm)	1.0000

## STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
1910.4 (+15.6)
FT-SE 100
2516.3 (+26.2)
New York Dow Jones
3205.72 (+20.12)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avg
21775.13 (+78.27)

## INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month Interbank 10 <sup>11/12</sup> -10 <sup>13/14</sup> %
3-month eligible bills 10 <sup>11/12</sup> -10 <sup>13/14</sup> %
US: Prime Rate 6%
Federal Funds 3%
3-month Treasury Bills 10 <sup>11/12</sup> -10 <sup>13/14</sup> %
30-year bond 10 <sup>11/12</sup> -10 <sup>13/14</sup> %

## CURRENCIES

London:
\$ 1.7945
E 1.7925
DM 2.8243
Fr 2.8258
Yen 227.18
£ 90.4
DM 1.0520
ECU 1.27100
£ 1.291681

London foreign market close

## GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$333.40 cm \$333.80
close \$332.75-34.25 £196.60
197.10
New York:
Comex \$334.15-354.65*

## NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Feb) ....
\$17.90 bbl (£17.95)

## RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 135.6 November (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

# IEA predicts oil output fall in former Soviet states

By MARTIN BARROW

OIL production in the former Soviet Union fell to 4.1 million barrels per day last year, down 9.5 per cent from 1990 and down 17.7 per cent from the 1988 peak, according to the International Energy Agency.

The IEA also forecast that output from the new Commonwealth of Independent States would average 9.5 million bpd this year. November output was 10 million bpd and December production was expected to be about 100,000 bpd below that.

The agency said it could not forecast the amount of oil available for export this year because of political changes and uncertainties over the economy and domestic demand for fuel.

The IEA's latest monthly oil market report estimates that world demand for oil will grow 0.75 per cent in 1992. Global demand is expected to average 66.8 million bpd this year, compared with 66.3 million

bpd last year. The agency expects demand to drop 2.6 million bpd between the first and second quarters of the year, which will put a burden on Jibril Aminu, president of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, to cut output and stop oil prices falling further, after hitting 11-month lows in the past week.

Oil prices slipped back yesterday with February Brent trading 8 cents lower at \$17.87 a barrel, partly offsetting Monday's gains. Traders remain concerned about over-production by Opec and the threat of a resumption of oil exports by Iraq.

Weak demand, page 10



Under pressure: Jibril Aminu, Opec president

## British Gas nears MMC enquiry deadline

By MARTIN WALLER

BRITISH Gas was last night continuing a game of brinkmanship with the Office of Fair Trading over the looming threat of an investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The OFT has indicated it expects agreement by today

with the company over attempts to inject more competition into the industry, where British Gas has a virtual monopoly, or the matter will go to the MMC.

British Gas has already agreed to reduce its share of the profitable industrial market from 90 to 40 per cent and to separate out its distribution

network into an independently-trading subsidiary.

The board, however, is insisting on a change to the regulatory regime governing the domestic market, which the OFT believes it is powerless to grant, before the company will sign the agreement.

British Gas has asked for a

relaxation of the stiff new price regime governing the domestic market, expected to come into effect on April 1.

Ofgas, the regulator, has refused, taking the view that the company knew of the squeeze on profits from industrial business when it agreed the price framework. British Gas wants to appeal to the MMC to refuse the MMC.

## Estate agent plunges

By PHILIP PANGALOS

NOBO Group, the visual aids and office equipment concern, has cut its interim dividend to 1p (2.42p) after first-half profits collapsed in "some of the poorest trading conditions known in the history of the group".

Pre-tax profits slumped to £62,000 (£1.29 million) in the half year to end-October, on turnover down 22.8 per cent to £19.92 million. Earnings plunged to 0.06p (7.93p) per share. Roger Colvin, chief executive, said sales were affected by reduced demand and further destocking.

The decline in profits was exacerbated by a £227,000 exceptional charge, relating to compensation paid to Colin Smith, a former managing director who left in November. The company said his departure was a result of "the group's policy of consolidating management and containing future costs". Mr Colvin defended the move, saying savings from Mr Smith's departure amount to £170,000 a year. In addition, Reg Barr, executive chairman, will become non-executive chairman and director with immediate effect, resulting in his salary being halved to £50,000.

Mr Colvin is "cautiously optimistic" about prospects, following increased activity from the group's customers. "I think we are over the worst," he added. He said invoiced sales in October were encouraging, with the trend continuing in November and December. The shares lost 6p to 71p.

## Barbour Index bucks the trend with £2.8m

By PHILIP PANGALOS

BARBOUR Index, which provides specialist information to the construction and health and safety industries, is raising its interim dividend to 2.4p (2.2p) as it continues to buck the trend, lifting taxable profits to £2.78 million (£2.66 million) in the six months to end-October. Turnover edged to £7.17 million (£6.94 million).

The *Barbour Compendium*, a leading reference manual to the construction industry, increased its profits despite a "margin decline" in its renewal rate to about 80 per cent. Market conditions remain difficult and Jack Dunn, the chief executive, said: "It's still tough going, but it's certainly not getting any worse." The company is sitting on cash of £3.7 million. Earnings per share climbed to 11.1p (10.5p). The shares closed 12p higher at 191p.

## Bucknall in the red

BUCKNALL Group, the quantity surveyor and project manager, fell into losses at the halfway stage, as forecast by the company in October. Losses before tax for the six months ended October were £752,000, compared with a profit of £542,000 for the corresponding period in 1990. Turnover fell from £10.4 million to £8.6 million. There is no interim dividend (1.3p), but the directors have pledged to restore payment "as soon as possible". The final dividend will be reviewed after the year-end. Gearing at halfway stage was 68 per cent, compared with a year-end position of 129 per cent.

## Estate agent plunges

AN increased emphasis on regional and consultancy work has helped Debenham Tewson & Chinrocks, the commercial estate agent and property adviser, stay in the black in the first half of the year. But the company said that the second half "will not be easy". Profits before tax for the six months to end-October collapsed from £2.05 million to £0.73 million, on sharply reduced turnover of £16.6 million. The interim dividend is cut from 2.4p to 1p.

## Engineer cuts payout

AEROSPACE Engineering, the specialist engineer that makes aircraft components and equipment for nuclear power stations, has cut its interim dividend to 0.5p (1.56p) after going into the red at the halfway stage. The company suffered a pre-tax loss of £271,000 in the half year to end-October, against a profit of £1.38 million last time. Turnover fell 16.3 per cent to £15.1 million, affected by the recession and destocking. Interest costs rose 21 per cent to £736,000.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE										
	Bid	Offer	+/- %	V/Y %		Bid	Offer	+/- %	V/Y %	
ABBEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS										
10 Cheyne Walk, London SW1 YEL 1EL										
020 7 800 5000, Fax 020 7800 5001										
Mastervest	87.52	91.40	+ 0.1%	2.74		General	236.57	237.90	+ 0.1%	3.19
Dividend Csh	87.52	91.40	+ 0.1%	2.74		Investment Trust	94.86	100.40	+ 0.6%	3.70
Capital Gch	52.87	56.24	+ 0.3%	3.0%		UK Growth	212.51	217.00	+ 2.2%	4.94
High Yield	91.80	95.07	+ 0.4%	4.42		International	120.20	132.20	+ 2.8%	2.80
High Inv Equity	123.60	131.40	+ 0.6%	2.67		Nordic Special	187.10	199.20	+ 1.0%	5.59
World Fund	116.00	120.00	+ 0.3%	2.92		Pacific	185.20	201.30	+ 0.8%	3.62
High Tech	113.20	120.00	+ 0.6%	2.67		Latin America	104.50	112.50	+ 0.7%	2.60
High Tech Fund	122.87	127.60	+ 0.5%	2.19		Other	121.50	127.50	+ 0.5%	3.76
High Yield Fund	109.51	112.40	+ 0.3%	2.72		Small Stocks	215.00	220.20	+ 0.2%	3.03
High Yield Fund	109.51	112.40	+ 0.3%	2.72		Small Int'l	212.20	217.60	+ 2.1%	3.76
High Yield Fund	109.51	112.40	+ 0.3%	2.72		UK	200.00	207.00	+ 0.3%	3.66
High Yield Fund	109.51	112.40	+ 0.3%	2.72		US	212.20	217.60	+ 2.1%	3.76
High Yield Fund	109.51	112.40	+ 0.3%	2.72		EMI	212.20	217.60	+ 2.1%	3.76
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High Yield Fund	109.51	112.40	+ 0.3%	2.72		EMI	212.20	217.60	+ 2.1%	3.76
High Yield Fund	109.51	112.40	+ 0.3%	2.72		UK	212.20	217.60	+ 2.1%	3.76
High Yield Fund	109.51	112.40	+ 0.3%							



TEMPS

## Long trek for Stakis on road to recovery

THERE was little to cheer Stakis shareholders in Sir Lewis Robertson's first full-year report as chairman, but the £47.4 million pre-tax loss for the year to September 29 did not come as a surprise. The £43.7 million of exceptional costs making up the bulk of the loss were detailed at the halfway stage.

Those who have seen the share price fall roughly 75 per cent in the past two years can find a crumb of comfort in the fact that that worst is almost certainly behind the group. Returning it to profit, however, will be no easy task.

The pre-tax loss looked all the more dramatic against the previous year's £30.6 million profit, which was boosted by £18 million disposal profits. Turnover rose from £150 million to £171 million. At the operating level, profits were £17.6 million (£40.8 million).

The interest charge rose from £8.44 million to £21.4 million and the loss per share was 16.74p against earnings of 12.1p. There were £3.06 million of extraordinary items, representing the loss in disposing of leisure businesses. The dividend is 0.45p making 0.9p (2.7p) for the year.

The exceptional costs cover a writedown against the value of property developments, the disposal of which has been entrusted to an outside agency. The figures also included the costs of reorganising the business. Debt is now

stable at £192 million, down from £215 million at the year-end, after £30 million was raised from disposals.

The business will be well balanced when it finally returns to profitability and debt has been reduced to a healthy level, which looks to be at least two years away. The hotels have a strong asset backing and the casinos generate cash. The nursing homes are a mixture of both.

Sir Lewis and David Michie, his chief executive, inspire confidence in the City and are taking corrective action within the group, but Stakis is likely to do little more than break even this year.

The shares, up 1p at 35p, may be a good bet at some stage this year but with recovery so far off, it is too early to buy yet.

### Howden Group

HOWDEN Group appears to be back from the dead with pre-tax profits of £5.81 million for the six months to end-October, compared with a depressed £214,000.

Howden is also keeping faith about resuming regular dividend payments by declaring a half-time dividend of 0.7p a share and reiterating that 2p for the full year is likely. In the year to end-April 1991, one payment of 1.5p a share was made.

The group also appears to be bucking the recession with steady orders coming in



So far, so good: John Jackson, of Howden

for power station fans in America, and cooling systems orders for the European fighter aircraft. Gearing has been cut by half to 50 per cent and is headed for the 30 per cent region. John Jackson, chairman since September, may well feel "so far, so good".

The shadow, however, of

the dispute concerning the Great Belt contract in Denmark, which went badly wrong in October, 1990, and for which hefty provisions were made last year, looms large and menacingly over investment prospects.

Howden said earlier that the legal process would be lengthy, and has suggested

that provisions made in last year's accounts were sufficient. There was, therefore, market relief that no more provisions appeared in yesterday's interim report and it was that relief that lifted the shares 3p higher to 55p.

The MT Group, in Denmark, however, has now started an action in Scotland. Howden in turn is finalising a claim for contract extras that will be a "very significant amount".

Aside from the contract wrangle, Howden could be in line for pre-tax profits of £18 million this year (£2.99 million), possibly rising to £24 million in 1993. The shares trade on 8.21 times prospective earnings, easing to 7.33 on 1993 profit hopes.

Turnover slipped from £164.4 million to £157.7 million but margins were severely eroded, leaving operating profits down from £15.35 million to £9.08 million. Britain did little more than break even on sales of £40.6 million, down from £47.2 million, as capital investment by Eurotherm's major customers, including ICI, almost vanished. Overseas sales held steady at £117 million.

Adam Page, an analyst at County NatWest, anticipates earnings of 2p which would leave the shares on p/e of just under 14. Not cheap, but dividend and growth prospects remain fair which should underpin further advances.

Eurotherm

EUROTHERM shares merit further support despite a strong run from 182p a year ago to 303p yesterday, when they gained a further 5p.

A 46 per cent stamp in taxable profits to £7.15 million last year, though lamentable, was expected. Analysts anticipate a recovery to about £14.5 million in the current year even though no recovery in demand is likely.

The recovery should come as a result of restructuring in

the final weeks of the last financial year. Overheads have been reduced by £3 million, resulting in an exceptional charge of £1.9 million against 300 redundancies.

Claus Hultman, the new managing director, has streamlined the number of operating subsidiaries thus reducing duplication of costs. Interest costs should also continue to fall, a reflection of lower interest rates and careful cash management.

Earnings fell from 19.6p a share to 10.58p but there is a token dividend increase from 7.05p a share to 7.20p, with a 4.1p final, which suggests the company feels comfortable with City expectations.

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## Dow recoups losses

New York — American blue chips opened slightly lower on weak retail sales data but quickly recovered their losses and moved into positive ground.

George Pirrone, senior trader at Dreyfus Corporation, said strong performances by oil stocks and American Express helped the Dow Jones industrial average recover from a low of 3,184

reached minutes after the opening.

By mid-morning, the Dow was up 6.26 at 3,191.86, off a high of 3,195.

Advancing shares led declining shares by seven to four.

Tokyo — The Nikkei index gained 78.27 points to 21,775.13. The Tokyo market is closed today for a holiday.

STOCK MARKET

## Surging prices put squeeze on market-makers

MARKET-MAKERS were continuing to feel the pinch as share prices surged back through the 2,500 level. The recent strength of the equity market has left a number of market-makers nursing sizable trading losses. Speculation in the Square Mile claims at least one leading

The appearance of only a handful of buyers is now enough to send dealers rushing for cover and share prices sharply higher. Last night, the FT-SE 100 index closed at its best of the day, with a rise of 26.2 at 2,526.3, helped by an opening mark-up on Wall Street.

This time it was James Capel, stockbroker, that did much of the damage as it carried out an estimated £200 million programme trade. Turnover was boosted as 519 million shares changed hands.

Large lines of stock went through the market in companies such as Bass, up 21p at 10.70, Guinness, 9p better at 54p, and BAT Industries, 10p stronger at 638p.

Government securities gained almost 1% at the longer end, hoping for a better showing this week by the government in the opinion polls.

Cable & Wireless jumped 18p to 618p as investors continued switching out of British Telecom, unchanged at 318p, after the shares went ex-dividend ear-

lier this week. There has been talk that C&W is contemplating floating off its Mercury telephone network, or that it may allow American Telephone and Telegraph to take a stake.

British Airways rose 6p to

242p, still hoping to secure a merger with KLM, the Dutch airline. BAA, the independent airport operator, was another firm market, adding 10p at 560p after a recommendation by County NatWest.

British Steel hardened 1p to 68.2p, helped by the growing threat of a strike by Germany's steel workers. UBS Phillips & Drew, stockbroker, has also upgraded its recommendation from a hold to a buy.

Fisons rose 6p to 360p on the news that John Kerridge, chairman, had resigned as chairman and chief executive because of ill-health.

British Aerospace continued with a rise of 6p to 328p as fund managers began a two-day tour of the group's operations in Britain and France. Hopes are high that the group will soon win a major defence contract from Saudi Arabia, but there are fears that a Labour government would hurt profits by cutting defence spending.

TI Group jumped 15p to 580p as County NatWest WoodMac added the shares, to its list of top 30 buys. TI replaces Lasme, up 6p at

250p, which is expected to suffer from a lower oil price.

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Shares in Amber Day, Phil-

Carlon Communications, the film and television services group, jumped 15p to 529p. The group's video duplication operation carries out work for Walt Disney and recently duplicated *Fantasia*, the classic cartoon. Reports in the industry claim Walt Disney is pressing ahead with plans to release other films on video.

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## New horizons open for Fisons

The precise sequence of events that led to the retirement of John Kerridge at Fisons should perhaps be left to him, his family and his doctor. But pharmaceutical analysts were shocked to learn that Mr Kerridge was going entirely, rather than merely handing over the chief executive's reins to another. Mr Kerridge, who ran Fisons out of Ipswich as something of a personal fiefdom, had occasionally difficult relations with the City and did not care for collaborative ventures with other drug companies. Growing institutional dislike of a dual role and a share price down 43 per cent since the summer mean some change looked inevitable. Mr Kerridge's achievements over the last decade are undeniable: he created, virtually from scratch, Britain's fourth largest pharmaceutical operation and allowed shareholders to ride the wave that produced outstanding results for other drug companies.

The problem facing Mr Kerridge's successor is the gap that has opened up between Glaxo, SmithKline Beecham and Wellcome, the three majors, and Fisons itself, which suggests the company lacks the critical mass to go into the 1990s as an independent.

The problems with the FDA that have sparked the share price decline are something of a temporary blip. The new chief executive — and all the pointers are to an outside applicant with a strong pharmaceuticals background — will be in a better position than Mr Kerridge to consider joint ventures, joint promotions and other strategic link-ups. That is not to say that the hostile assault dreamed of by some stale bulls is just around the corner; if only because contested bids are not the rule in pharmaceuticals. But optimists might ponder the analogy with Beecham: once a sleepy drugs concern, where the arrival of Bob Baumler as a new and dynamic chief executive presaged the link-up with SmithKline that created a true world player in pharmaceuticals.

## Pounding eases

Sterling is not out of the woods yet but it is looking a lot safer, thanks partly to a technical quirk of the ERM. Until very recently, the so-called "peseta floor" provided no real support for the pound — like the floor of an elevator it simply moved up and down with sterling. But in the last few weeks, this situation has abruptly changed. Last year the Spanish currency generally hovered some 4 to 5 per cent above its central rate against the mark. This left plenty of room for investors to lose money if and when Spain moved its currency into an ERM narrow band. But in the past two weeks the weakness of the pound has dragged the peseta down to within 2 per cent of its central rate against the mark. At this level the peseta's sky-high interest rates become irresistibly attractive to investors. Since there is believed to be no devaluation risk.

As a result, the support for sterling at about its present level may be stronger than generally supposed. For whenever the pound falls below DM2.8350, the peseta automatically moves within 2 per cent above the mark. At this level, the Spanish currency becomes an irresistible buy against the mark. Speculators sell marks against pesetas and as a by-product the mark weakens against the pound as well. This technical oddity could not defend the pound against a really strong speculative attack but it may just stave off the moment of truth when the pound falls to its ultimate floor of DM2.78 and the government has to choose to devalue or raise interest rates.

**Neil Bennett looks ahead to the problems facing the liquidators charged with clearing up the biggest banking failure in history**

A scene of the drama at the Bank of Credit and Commerce International ends, another is just beginning. The new scene will engage a cast of thousands as liquidators, lawyers and bank regulators mill around trying to make sense of the largest and most complex bank failure in history. The audience will need considerable patience since the performance will last well into the next millennium before BCCI is finally laid to rest.

The decision by the High Court in London to place BCCI in formal liquidation was a foregone conclusion. Hopes of rescuing and refloating the bank with new capital and management had evaporated months ago as Touche Ross, the provisional liquidator, uncovered the full extent of the losses. At the hearing, Sir Donald Nicholls, the Vice-Chancellor, summed up the situation when he described the bank as "plainly and hopelessly insolvent".

Figures from Touche Ross demonstrate the bank's dire financial position. BCCI claimed to have gross assets of \$11.7 billion when it was closed on July 5. But a series of provisions and write-offs mean that less than a tenth of this will eventually be available for depositors.

The largest write-off is \$6.33 billion in bad debt provisions on the bank's fraud-riddled loan book. The next, at \$1.91 billion, is for set-off, where other banks are withholding BCCI's assets to offset them against its liabilities. Liquidation expenses, asset write-downs and other legal and accounting black holes reduce the assets still further.

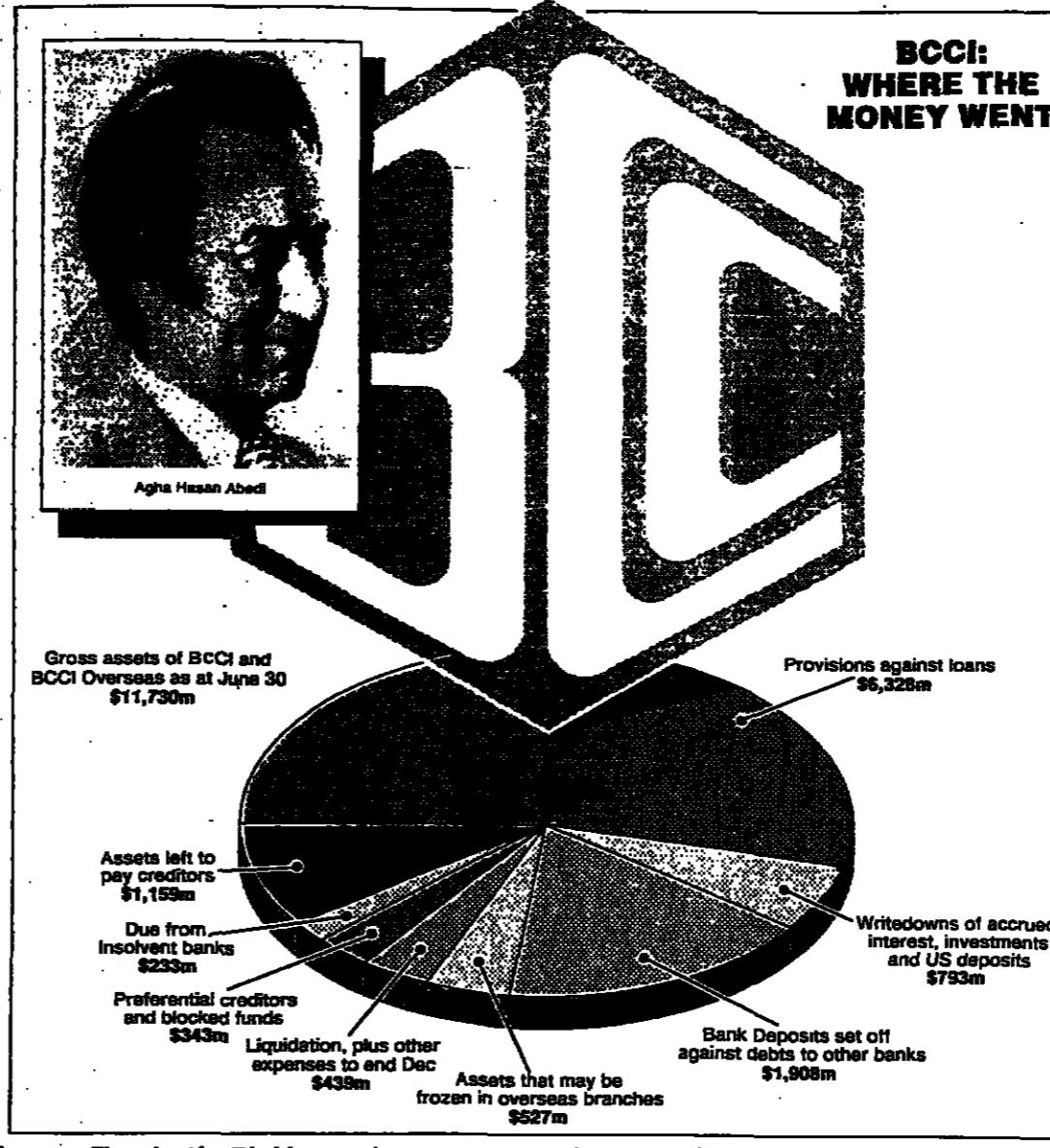
Without the Abu Dhabi government, the outlook for BCCI's 800,000 worldwide depositors would be bleak. They would be a scramble in many jurisdictions as creditors and even bank regulators tried to ringfence assets to secure preferential treatment.

The ensuing legal actions would last years, if not decades and most of the bank's remaining funds would be spent defending futile lawsuits.

Fortunately, Touche Ross and the Abu Dhabi government are close to an agreement which may avoid all this. This involves pooling all the assets of BCCI Holdings and Overseas, the two main companies within the bank group. The Abu Dhabi government, BCCI's 77 per cent shareholder, will then inject an estimated \$3 billion into this.

The scheme would allow Touche Ross to pay a first dividend to BCCI's creditors worldwide of 10 cents in the dollar later this year, and eventually return up to 40 per cent of the bank's deposits.

There are large hurdles to cross before the plan becomes a reality.



however. First, the Abu Dhabi government, led by Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, and Touche Ross have to agree to the settlement. Touche Ross announced yesterday that it hoped to sign the agreement by the end of the month.

This however is only the first stage in a delicate piece of international diplomacy. The plan must be approved by courts in Luxembourg and the Cayman Islands, where the bank's main operations were registered, and in Britain.

Most crucially of all, the scheme has to be backed by all BCCI's depositors. Brian Smouha, the BCCI administrator from Touche Ross, is currently travelling around the world sounding out the bank's creditors, and winning their support. All it takes is one or two depositors to object to the terms and to start legal action against the bank to try to recover a higher proportion of their money and the house of cards that has been deliberately built over the last six months will collapse.

The scheme will then need to be approved in all the countries where BCCI once operated, unless its operations there have already been sold. Insolvency experts have spent 20 years trying and failing to devise a practical code to deal with international liquidations. The accountants and lawyers working on BCCI have been forced to build that framework

in so many ways. The process will not be cheap: Touche Ross estimates it will cost \$239 million.

Inevitably, some countries will decide to ringfence their operations to secure a better deal for local depositors, however generous the Abu Dhabi offer. Touche Ross has made a \$527 million provision for this.

A number of financial groups and businessmen have recently tried to obscure the issues in the liquidation by proposing plans which they claim will give creditors a far higher payout than the one offered by Sheikh Zayed. Professionals close to the liquidation view any scheme which offers a dividend of 70 per cent or 80 per cent with amazement, since the quality of BCCI's assets simply do not justify it. There is a real risk that these shadowy proposals could obscure the one firm life-line depositors are being offered.

Fortunately, BCCI's British depositors have been treated better than most in the rest of the world. In July, the Abu Dhabi government contributed £42 million to an emergency compensation scheme for the bank's 38,000 British sterling depositors. The scheme paid three-quarters of each deposit up to a £5,000 ceiling. The maximum sum would have covered the vast majority of BCCI's British customers. Surprisingly,

however, less than a third have applied to Touche Ross for compensation, even though the accountants have sent out 53,000 letters urging people to apply.

Undoubtedly, some depositors are still unaware that the scheme exists, and may have been hampered by language barriers. Nevertheless, the figures show that there are a large number of depositors unwilling to lay claim to their funds, possibly because they are being investigated by tax and customs officers.

The liquidation order granted by the High Court now allows the Bank of England's deposit protection scheme to come into force. This refunds three-quarters of each deposit up to a £15,000 maximum. The scheme will also refund the Abu Dhabi government the amount it has paid out in the interim period.

So only BCCI's larger depositors in Britain will remain seriously out of pocket, including local authorities and Channel 4 television.

The BCCI affair has left no one looking respectable. Bank regulators have appeared naive and incompetent, accountants gullible, and the police ineffective.

Authorities across the world were duped by a systematic fraud on an unimaginable scale. They can only learn by their mistakes.

## Lloyd's to present survival blueprint

This morning, Lloyd's of London will present the fourth of the reforming reports that have transformed the face of the insurance market over the past quarter of a century.

Much is expected of the report, as Lloyd's faces problems on perhaps more fronts than at any time in its 300-year history. However, unlike its illustrious forerunners, Cromer, Fisher and Neill, the Rowland report is primarily a soul-searching exercise carried out by the market itself. All but three of the members of the taskforce were insiders and David Rowland, the chairman, heads one of the largest firms of Lloyd's brokers.

His taskforce began life just over a year ago as a relatively low-key examination of the capital base of Lloyd's. It was commissioned by Murray Lawrence, then outgoing chairman, and David Coleridge, his successor. Since then, the extraordinary public airing of Lloyd's problems and the continuing commercial difficulties dogging the market, have raised the status of the report from technical discussion paper to blueprint for survival. Mr Coleridge has promised no sacred cows, so expectations of fairly radical reform have been running high both among those who work at Lloyd's and the names who supply the capital.

Shortest odds among the takers are being given on some form of watering down of the practice, but not the principle, of unlimited liability. This would mean that names would continue to operate as sole traders, liable to their last farthing, but that the community as a whole would pick up the tab in excess of a certain point, in the event of truly horrendous losses. The hope is that this form of limited "mutualisation" would restore confidence in Lloyd's to a wealthy potential name who was considering joining but was put off by the unlimited downside risk. In that way Lloyd's could halt the haemorrhaging of names that has afflicted the market in recent years.

Inevitably, this safety net will have to be funded by the names themselves, and the size of the resulting levy on names will be another point of keen interest. There are almost certain to be further technical measures to improve names' confidence in their agents and the syndicates they are placed on.

The report should also have something to say about the traditional but confusing three-year accounting system that operates at Lloyd's. Many have called for a one-year system, in line with the insurance companies, but practical difficulties might make this proposal a bridge too far.

In general, the report will recommend confidence-building measures that can be implemented within the existing legislative framework. The last thing Lloyd's wants right now is a new bill passing through Parliament at a time of widespread public criticism of the market.

JONATHAN PRYNN

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Butler is back in oil analysis

AFTER two years out of the market, Liz Butler, once ranked among the top ten oil analysts in the City, has staged a comeback. Butler, aged 47, married to an Oxford academic and the mother of two daughters, aged 23 and 21, has just started work at Panmure Gordon, as its sole analyst covering the oil sector. Since resigning from Laing & Crucikshank in January 1990, after a disagreement over management style, Butler has kept herself busy by assisting in a consultancy capacity. John Brown, head of exploration at BP and a member of the main board, "kept turning down offers from various broking firms but being a consultant is a very lonely business and I suddenly realised that I actually missed broking," Butler says. That realisation dawned on her after sharing a pot of tea with John Wainsey, finance director of Enterprise Oil. "He said that there was a scarcity of good oil analysts and suggested that I go back into the City," she adds. It will however, take her time to re-acclimatise. "It all seems terribly strange," she says. "I'd even forgotten how to use Topic."

### Family ties

BLOOD really is thicker than water. Bernard Attali, the Algerian-born chairman of Air France, is involved in negotiations for a consortium of investors, led by Air France, to buy up to 40 per cent of CSA, Czechoslovakia's national airline, for \$60 million. A "memorandum of



understanding" to that effect was signed in Prague last week. Although it was not referred to in the memorandum, it is believed that other investors in the consortium are Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations (the French state-controlled pension fund and savings bank) and the London-based European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, otherwise known as EBRD. EBRD's chairman is Jacques Attali, aged 48, a former French presidential adviser, and Bernard's twin brother.

THE New York Times notes that *The Lord's Prayer* contains 56 words, the 23rd Psalm 118 words and the Ten Commandments 297 words. By contrast, the American department of agriculture's directive on the pricing of cabbage takes less than 15,620 words.

Ward joins Capita SHANDWICK, the world's biggest public relations company, has said goodbye to Clive Ward, who joined two

years ago to advise on acquisitions. Ward, who spent two years on the takeover panel in the Seventies, was head of corporate finance at Ernst & Young before signing up as corporate development director at Shandwick in 1990 — at the tail end, as it turned out, of the company's aggressive expansion policy. He has now joined Capita, the management services group, to head a new corporate finance division there. "I advised both companies on their flotations," says Ward, aged 46, who has been planning the move for the past year. "I joined Shandwick to help with acquisitions, but my timing wasn't the best. It became apparent to me that I was a cost they could do without."

Taking over panel WHEN Frances Heaton starts her two-year stint as director general of the takeover panel in March, she will join a growing number of regulators, including Sir David Walker of the Securities and Investments Board, who spent their formative years at the Treasury. However, Mrs Heaton is not without experience of the hurly burly of takeovers. On one occasion, as adviser to TSB, she lost control at the panel to push through a bid for Hogg Robinson before the latter demerged itself. Hogg's adviser on that occasion was Geoffrey Barnett of Barings, who has been director general of the panel for the past two years and will soon return to his former bank. The new director general says the panel's decision was "perfectly fair".

CAROL LEONARD

### Regulators need fraud early warning system

From Mr Brian Taylor

Sir, Articles in the press have pointed out that someone must have known what was happening inside Maxwell's empire.

Telling the truth can be costly.

I have twice in my career revealed to the regulators of a company that fraud was taking place. On the first occasion, the fraud was so serious it would have threatened the viability of the company's entire Far Eastern operation. For this reason, the company decided to cover up the truth. I was dismissed with a bad reference. My solicitor advised me not to take on a

company with the resources to hire the best defence in the land.

On the second occasion, I was warmly thanked, but my contract was discontinued. The fraudster was subsequently prosecuted. But it was feared I might talk to the staff.

I cannot emphasise too strongly how isolated and vulnerable you feel when you realise that your boss is a crook. You are utterly alone and there is nobody to confide in. Your family will suffer financially if the wrongdoer suspects you know too much. When you think about Maxwell's habit of pursuing his

opponents through the courts, your feeling of horror becomes intolerable.

One answer for the banks, or someone is to set up a scheme to advise innocent directors and accountants who suspect a large-scale fraud. In return, the directors would reveal what they have seen and heard to the regulators. Million-pound fraud is a growing industry.

If the regulators can detect it early, they will save a fortune.

Yours sincerely,

BRIAN TAYLOR,  
57 Orchard Way,  
Burwell,  
Cambridge.

### Workfare as opposed to workshare

From Mr John Sheddell

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Jubb, has directed several questions to me (Business letters, January 8), but he will find that most of the points he raises are very fully discussed in Ralph Howell's paper *Why not Work*, to which reference was made in Eamonn Butler's article (December 19). Mr Howell deals with the practical aspects of introducing and running a "workfare" type scheme and draws on the experience of other countries.

As to who would organise

and oversee workfare, it would seem that being recently retired, the application of Mr Jobb's "workshare" principles would surely disqualify me. Mr Howell's much better suggestion is that some of the organisational work could be done by persons themselves in workfare, as part of their workfare experience.

Yours sincerely,

J.B. SHEDDELL,  
6 Barnfield Close,  
Crockenhall,  
Swanley,  
Kent.

### Economic rule that points to failure

From Mr D.H. Walton

Sir, One economic rule I have never seen written down is: "Socialist systems only work when run by capitalists whilst capitalist systems always fail when run by socialists."

I fear this rule is as true as

experience has shown, the ex-Soviet empire, which is still largely run by socialists, will unfortunately fail.

Yours truly,

DAVID WALTON,  
10 St Guthlac's Close,  
Crowland,  
Lincolnshire.

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# Glen Cherry set to reap benefit of chasing debut

**GLEN** Cherry, whose breeding and physique suggest he's destined for the future, has over fences, is mapped to open his account in the Wetherby Novices' Handicap Chase at Ludlow today.

Always regarded as a potential chaser by his trainer, Tim Forster, the son of Fury Glen admitted himself well on his debut over fences when five-and-a-half lengths third to Mister Tick at Stratford in December.

The strength of that contest stands up well. Mister Tick had previously finished runner-up to the useful Springate at Worcester and Border Archer, second at Stratford, gave the form a timely boost when successful at Fonthill Park on Monday.

I expect the lightly-raced six-year-old to appreciate this trip of three miles for the first time today, when the danger appears to be the Henrietta Knight-trained Badirah.

Formerly a good handicapped hurdler when trained by David Murray Smith, Badirah ran with plenty of promise last time out when third behind Real Class at Bangor. However, I feel the selection has considerable scope for improvement.

Forster can complete a double when Knighton Coombe in the Oteley Novices' Handicap Hurdle. The New Zealand-bred gelding has been ex-

cellent form this season, winning twice and finishing third from as many cuttings.

Not surprisingly, the handicapper has allowed him with top weight, but his task will greatly be helped by the 7lb allowance claimed by Rodger Parham, an accomplished amateur rider.

However, Forster's hopes of a treble on the Shropshire course with Eastshaw in Richards' Castle Handicap Chase could well be thwarted by Bonai Bud. Since making a winning seasonal debut at Wincanton, Eastshaw has been bitter disappointment.

But Bonai Bud, who will have his first outing of the

season, has improved. Last season, he was not disgraced when runner-up to the useful Golden Celtic at Fonthill and followed that with a comfortable defeat of Imo The Red at Stratford.

Coughlan Run, however, can confirm Forster's successful afternoon by taking the Royal Windsor Handicap Chase at Windsor at the expense of Evening Rain.

In the EBF National Hunt Novices' Hurdle, I expect the former Jimmy Fitzgerald-trained Rocket Launcher to make a successful debut for David Elsworth. After his promising second behind Native Pride at Uttoxeter, the Strong Gate gelding was slightly disappointing when fifth behind the Jenny Pitman-trained Triple Witching at Leicester.

The Green Staff, who had the misfortune to be brought down last time out at Wincanton, can return to form in the Datchet Handicap Chase. Prior to that unfortunate incident he was a convincing seven-length winner from O'Reilly at Leicester.

Society Guest also appears to have the weight in his favour in the January Handicap Hurdle. At Wincanton, last time the High Line gelding escaped a penalty for his success as it was achieved in conditional jockeys' race.

Across The Card 13, a

novice from the stable of

David Elsworth, has been

preparing well for his

debut in a 2m 30yd race.

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# Reduced funding threatens sport

Local authorities have always been the biggest spenders on sport in Britain. Playing fields, swimming pools, sports centres and gyms have been financed largely from rates and the community charge, supported by money from central government.

In 1985, the spending by local authorities was totalled by the Henley Centre of Forecasting at £1,059 million; the latest estimate for 1990 is that, despite inflation over the last five years, the total will reach only £1,038 million, a decline in real terms of 23 per cent.

Worse is to come. In April, charge-capping will be extended to all districts — and this will have a severe effect on sport and recreation, which are only discretionary services. Whereas local authorities have a statutory obligation to provide education and housing, there is no such requirement for sport and recreation. It is inevitable that they will suffer acutely, with the possibility of swimming pools and sports centres closing, leisure services being reduced and more playing fields being taken out of use.

In addition, the Sports Council learned from two surveys of local authorities last year that councils will reduce capital expenditure on facilities like sports halls and swimming pools by at least 25 per cent over the next four years.

So serious is the situation that the Sports Council is today meeting representatives of the Local Authority Associations to discuss a new survey of capital and revenue expenditures.

In the West Midlands, a report from local authorities has shown that there has been a decline of total capital expenditure on sport from about £20 million in 1988-9 to a projected £6 million in 1992-3. David Pryor, the regional director for the Sports Council, believes that the full extent of the problem has yet to be felt because many councils have been drawing on their reserves for this financial year and for 1992-3. It is only when local politicians draw up their budgets for 1993-4 that the cutbacks will be truly felt.

Jimmy Munn, the chairman of the regional sports council, said: "This is the most serious problem we face. The government does not appreciate the implications of capping on sport and leisure."

## SWIMMING

### Moorhouse puts record on hold

BY CRAIG LORD

ADRIAN Moorhouse has denied reports that he is aiming to break the world 100 metres short-course record in the third round of the World Cup at Leicester this week.

The Olympic breaststroke champion acknowledges that he wants to boost his race confidence with a fast time.

But the physical demands of hard winter training, coupled with a minor skin complaint last week, are likely to keep Moorhouse short of the peak form forecast in some reports.

"They've got it wrong. It's not a question of records, it's to do with seeing how I'm going," Moorhouse said. "I'd like to put in a fast time to boost my confidence."

The Yorkshireman, who competes for City of Leeds, will decide whether to shave down after the morning qualifying heats of the 100 metres

### India are checked by Reiffel

Sydney: Paul Reiffel, the Victoria fast bowler, marked his international debut with two important wickets as Australia crushed India by nine wickets in their World Series Cup day-night match here yesterday.

Reiffel, preferred to Dean Jones who has been unable to reproduce his outstanding form for his state side for his country this season, dismissed both the Indian openers, Shastri and Srikkanth, after they had put on 52, and finished with two for 27.

India, who must now beat West Indies in Melbourne tomorrow to qualify for the best-of-three finals against the Australians, failed to build on the platform Shastri and Srikkanth had given them and were dismissed for 175 in 49.4 overs. Australia then cruised to 177 for one, winning with 10.4 overs to spare.

Moody made the most of Jones's demotion with 87 not out from 123 balls, while David Boon again played a key role with an unbeaten 79 from 100 balls. They put on 167 for the second wicket — a record for a one-day match against India. (Reuters)

**INDIA**

R J Shastri b Reiffel ..... 42  
P Srikkanth b Reiffel ..... 22  
N S Sidhu b Boon & R Waugh ..... 1  
S V Venkatesh b Moody ..... 16  
S T Farhadieh b Reiffel ..... 1  
M Achazuddin c Border b McDermott ..... 1  
Kapil Dev run out ..... 7  
M Prabhakar b Whiteman ..... 1  
V Srinivasan b Moody ..... 2  
S L V Ravi not out ..... 6  
J Smith b S R Waugh ..... 5  
Extras (b, w, n, nb) 1 ..... 13  
Total (49.4 overs) ..... 175

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-82, 2-39, 3-47, 4-120, 5-150, 6-157, 7-161, 8-172, 9-173, 10-182, 11-191, 12-197, 13-200, 14-207, 15-212, 16-217, 17-222, 18-227, 19-232, 20-237, 21-242, 22-247, 23-252, 24-257, 25-262, 26-267, 27-272, 28-277, 29-282, 30-287, 31-292, 32-297, 33-302, 34-307, 35-312, 36-317, 37-322, 38-327, 39-332, 40-337, 41-342, 42-347, 43-352, 44-357, 45-362, 46-367, 47-372, 48-377, 49-382, 50-387, 51-392, 52-397, 53-402, 54-407, 55-412, 56-417, 57-422, 58-427, 59-432, 60-437, 61-442, 62-447, 63-452, 64-457, 65-462, 66-467, 67-472, 68-477, 69-482, 70-487, 71-492, 72-497, 73-502, 74-507, 75-512, 76-517, 77-522, 78-527, 79-532, 80-537, 81-542, 82-547, 83-552, 84-557, 85-562, 86-567, 87-572, 88-577, 89-582, 90-587, 91-592, 92-597, 93-602, 94-607, 95-612, 96-617, 97-622, 98-627, 99-632, 100-637, 101-642, 102-647, 103-652, 104-657, 105-662, 106-667, 107-672, 108-677, 109-682, 110-687, 111-692, 112-697, 113-702, 114-707, 115-712, 116-717, 117-722, 118-727, 119-732, 120-737, 121-742, 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The Leeds United-Manchester United saga enters stage three

# The best option for Leeds could be to omit Chapman

BY STUART JONES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

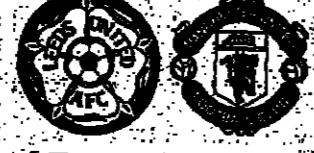
**TO OMIT** a centre forward three days after he has scored three goals may seem a perverse play. Arguably, though, the best chance Leeds United have of winning the rearranged FA Cup third-round tie at Elland Road tonight would be to attack Manchester United without Lee Chapman.

Howard Wilkinson is unlikely to share the view. He has, after all, selected Chapman for all but one of the 30 fixtures so far this season, and the exception was the meaningless Zenith Data Systems Cup tie at home to Nottingham Forest back in October. Leeds, coincidentally, lost.

Under usual circumstances, Chapman is an essential member of the most productive front line in the first division, as he demonstrated at the weekend during the heaviest defeat inflicted on Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough.

But his contribution in the two recent matches against Manchester United have been so negligible that Leeds might have been playing with ten men. Worse still, since their own focal point was lost in the shadow of Gary Pallister, their attack has failed to function effectively.

Their 6-1 win on Sunday, though it raised high the spirits lowered by Manchester United in the Rumbelows Cup the previous week, was irrelevant. Sheffield Wednesday, natively, neither disturbed the aerial superiority



of Chapman nor, more crucially, finished the intrusion of Mel Sterland and, especially, Tony Dorigo on the flanks.

Leeds allowed to unleash all of their power were naturally irresistible but Alex Ferguson's side is designed to debase their principal weapons, Ryan Giggs and Andrei Kanachukis, the wingers, will again restrict the movement of their opposing full backs and the threat posed by Chapman again promises to be smothered by Pallister.

"He is the best centre half in the country," the Manchester United manager said. "He has matured and has now developed into twice the player I signed."

Pallister, though perhaps the most prominent figure so far in the "War of the Rose",

has yet to experience the taste of victory over the rivals from the other side of the Pennines.

The sequence has lasted for 11 years but Manchester United, for whom Bryan Robson may return as a substitute, would not be profoundly dispirited if their prolonged run ends in the tie to be televised live this evening. Already in the semi-finals of the Rumbelows Cup, their principal ambition is to capture the championship.

To reach Wembley in the FA Cup, the winners would have to endure at least four more emotionally draining occasions, beginning at Southampton on January 27. The losers will be left with the compensation of a relatively free programme for the rest of the season.

Another potential upset could happen at Leyton Orient, where Oldham Athletic are the visitors in another third-round replay. Having provided Sheffield Wednesday with a night in the Rumbelows Cup earlier this season, Orient, of the third division, have cause for optimism against their first division opponents.

Joe Royle, the Oldham manager, conceded that his side were lucky to force a replay, and they will not relish tonight's visit to east London where a fourth-round trip to Portsmouth is the prize.

In the second division, Charlton Athletic face Wolverhampton Wanderers at Upton Park where Robert Lee will no doubt be watched by a selection of rival managers.

Charlton's prize commodity is valued at around £1 million, and the club are understood to be willing to sell in order to be able to afford to recompence building work at The Valley.

FRED Howard, the Liverpool official, will referee the five nations' championship match between Ireland and Wales in Dublin on Saturday, after the withdrawal yesterday through injury of Ed Morrison.

Morrison, from Bristol, suffered inflammation of the lower ribs after a freak accident during the league match between Northampton and Harlequins last Saturday. While watching the progress of a dropped goal by John Steele, he lost his balance and fell heavily on a frozen patch of the ground. He was still in discomfort yesterday.

Howard, widely regarded as one of the leading officials in the world, was not originally

awarded one of England's two appointments this season. The Rugby Football Union's refereeing panel decided that Morrison and Tony Spalding (the Somerset official who will handle the game between Ireland and Scotland) would benefit from additional experience.

It will be Howard's twentieth major international, and his experience has earned him a reputation for firm handling of matches combined with sympathetic use of the advantage law.

Howard was due to be one of the touch judges and his place on the line is taken by Chris Rees, the London official. Another leading referee, Clive Norling, of Wales, will be required to prove his fitness before taking charge of the match between England

## Scotland hope to gain from swift delivery by Nicol

BY ALAN LORIMER

WHEN Andy Nicol had recovered from the initial excitement of finding himself in the Scotland team to play England at Murrayfield on Saturday, his reaction was typical of a measured approach to his own apprenticeship.

"Promotion has come much sooner than I expected. I would have been quite happy spending this season on the bench," he said.

Circumstances of course dictated otherwise. Originally selected as one of the replacements, Nicol was called into the Scotland team last Sunday to replace Gary Armstrong, who sustained a knee ligament injury last weekend and is likely to miss the rest of the championship.

Nicol, aged 20, is one of a new breed of well-coached players filtering through to the top level of Scottish rugby, representing the dividend of an investment policy in mini/midi/youth rugby, implemented through Scottish clubs.

The grandson of George Ritchie, who played hooker for Scotland in the 1932 Calcutta Cup match at Twickenham, Nicol needed little encouragement to take up rugby and at the age of eight joined the mini section of the Panmure club, near Dundee.

Nicol's career flourished at Dundee High School and after playing for Scottish Schools over three seasons won an under-19 cap. Surprisingly, he was kept out of the Scotland under-21 side last season by West of Scotland's Fraser Storrie. He was invited to join

at almost 6ft and 12st. 7lb, Nicol has a different physique to Gary Armstrong and a different style of game to match it, but shares the same cool temperament. Whereas Scotland will lose out on the battling qualities of Armstrong, who is frequently described as a ninth forward, they will gain from the swifter and longer service of Nicol.

His partnership with Craig Chalmers will form the youngest half back pairing in a Scotland side.



Nicol: his cool temperament an asset for Scots

## Path clears for McKeag to become League president

BY PETER HALL  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE first division's decision not to nominate its own candidate for president of the Football League should leave the way clear for Gordon McKeag, of Newcastle United, to inherit the position left vacant by the death of Bill Fox. Nominations close today.

McKeag, a former county rugby player and chairman of the FA's Challenge Cup committee, is already the chairman of the shadow board which is restructuring the League for next season. If the Premier League is established. For him to combine the two positions would have obvious advantages.

Doug Ellis, of Aston Villa, has also been nominated for

include practice pitches, tennis courts and a hotel.

The club has not ruled out the possibility of ground-sharing with Edinburgh's other premier division club, Heart of Midlothian, but Hearts yesterday indicated that it is premature at this stage to discuss such an idea. Hearts have lodged separate applications seeking planning permission for a stadium and leisure facilities at Hermitage and Millerhill on the outskirts of the city.

Hibernian yesterday unveiled plans to move to a purpose-built stadium on the outskirts of Edinburgh. Provided they can win planning permission, Hibernian hope to be in a 25,000 all-seat stadium by 1994.

The stadium at Strathclyde, south of Edinburgh, would be part of a £50 million leisure development that would also

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Nunez is not happy about Cruyff moving on or about hearing of it at second-hand.

## Cruyff agrees to lead Dutch in 1994

OVERSEAS FOOTBALL  
BY PETER ROBINSON

FOR Johann Cruyff, the lure of the World Cup was too much to resist. The Netherlands' favourite son has agreed to lead his country in the finals, just in them. In the meantime, he is content to remain in charge of Barcelona.

Indeed, he has no intention of leaving the Catalan capital at all. After news of Cruyff's "move" leaked out, Cruyff said taking the Netherlands

job did not mean relinquishing his managerial duties at club level.

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# THE TIMES SPORT

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 15 1992

Only two seeds for European championships

## Britain's teams could be in the same group

FROM DAVID MILLER IN GOTHEBORG

ONLY two teams are to be seeded in the European championship draw here on Friday: Sweden, the hosts, in Stockholm and the Netherlands, the holders, in Gothenburg. Any of the other six, including England and Scotland, will come randomly out of the draw into either group.

Sweden, however, is planning to put the clock back 30 years, to the time when it staged a World Cup final tournament that was a joy to everyone who experienced it. The Swedish football federation is confident it can handle the security problems of even the worst possible potential quarter-final group: the Netherlands, Germany, England and Scotland.

The federation aims to make every match a three-day event: to welcome visiting spectators before and after a match that will not end merely with the final whistle, just as it was back in the halcyon days of 1958.

"We have an ambition to try to make everyone happy," Lennart Johansson, the Swedish president of Uefa, said here yesterday. "Young people have a special affinity to the game, and if they are coming here unable to afford hotels, we want to be able to find them somewhere to sleep, in school gymnasiums, to have a shower and cup of tea in the morning. When Sweden was elected to host the championships, I was

proud; in heaven. We have to make it a great event."

Friday's draw, however, could throw together in one group the elements that might stretch every resource of the Swedish police. Johansson warns that the organisation must not be fooled into thinking appearances encourage a casual approach.

"We have to be prepared to handle problems in an intelligent way," he says, "and not have weapons and water cannon provocatively displayed,

as at the recent Belgium-Germany match in Brussels, which gives troublemakers encouragement for what they seek."

There is, too, the element of Nazism, even here in Sweden, which some of us experienced when we were young and severely only with those who break the law. The Swedish press has exaggerated the hooligan factor ever since we became hosts, but as I have said to them, we cannot just shut every stadium in the world."

The strategy between government, police and federation, planned over three years, will take a final shape after Friday's draw clarifies potential flashpoints. England against Scotland, which has not happened for three years, and the Netherlands

is being kept to a minimum and to bypass the black market, every ticket sale has to be registered. Twenty per cent are going to visitors, 20 per cent to Euro and their sponsors, 60 per cent to Sweden. The tickets returned by, say, the Commonwealth of Independent States, will be allocated not to random agents but to Swedish football clubs.

"We want the tournament to be for genuine followers looking for a memorable experience," Johansson says. "Federations of countries that have previously been irresponsible in distribution, such as France and Germany, are being closely observed."

Sweden has generated four times the sponsorship income and five times the television income of 1988 in Germany.

## Sinclair gets long ban

BY CHRIS MOORE

FRANK Sinclair, the Chelsea full back, was yesterday suspended for nine matches by the Football Association for an incident involving the referee, Paul Alcock. Sinclair, aged 20 and on loan to West Bromwich Albion of the third division, clashed with Alcock when he awarded a last-minute penalty against West Bromwich in the League game at Exeter City on December 28.

The nine-match ban includes the three-match automatic suspension he has already started for the dismissal. Sinclair must also pay a £600 fine and £200 costs.

Sinclair was sent off after what he claimed was an accidental collision, but a three-man FA commission, headed by the disciplinary committee chairman, Geoff Thompson, decided Sinclair was guilty of misconduct.

Ian Atkins, the former Birmingham captain, who returned to St Andrews' last summer as first-team coach, played in the last 12 minutes of the match as a substitute. However, unknown to Terry Cooper, the new Birmingham manager, he had not been re-registered as a player with the League.

"His transfer was handled before I joined the club, so I am not aware of what happened at the time," Cooper said. "But thank goodness we have not been docked any points. If it had meant the difference between winning promotion or staying in the third division, the loss of points would have cost us far more than £10,000."

Howard Wilkinson, the manager of Leeds United, could face an FA dispute charge after being booked during Leeds' six-goal victory at Sheffield Wednesday on Sunday. Wilkinson was cautioned by the Midsex referee, Philip Don, during the first half after a controversial penalty was awarded to Wednesday when the forward, Gordon Watson, fell inside the Leeds goalmouth.

He made comments to the linesman, who then called Don to the touchline, where he booked Wilkinson.

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High fives: New Zealand XI players celebrate the downfall of Gooch, the England cricket captain, for only three in the match at Nelson yesterday. Report, page 34. Photograph: Graham Morris

## A first for New Zealand

Hinterstoder, Austria:

Annelise Coberger yesterday became the first New Zealander to win an Alpine ski World Cup race, swooping to a slalom victory over a distinguished cast after finishing fourth in the first leg.

"This is unbelievable," a radiant Coberger said as she shrieked with joy and fell into the arms of her Czechoslovak-born trainer, Robert Zallmann, after producing the fastest second-leg time.

"But this kind of snow is ideal for me, I like hard, icy courses," Coberger, aged 20, said. "I was not nervous, but just determined to put all I had into it."

Coberger's time for two legs of 1min 44.59sec gave her victory by 0.12sec over Vreni Schneider, of Switzerland, a former World Cup overall champion who led after the first leg, fourth in 1min 45.39sec.

Kronberger retains a slim lead over Schneider in the World Cup overall standings.

"I'm so relieved it's all over, but I was really relaxed on the way down," Coberger said.

Coyer gave ample proof of her potential by placing third in a slalom in Schruns on Sunday.

The Christchurch skier,

Schneider negotiated the two legs of a course with a vertical drop of 179 metres, marked with 64 and 60 gates respectively, in 1min 44.71sec.

Julie Parisien, of the United States, the winner of a giant slalom last season, finished third in 1min 44.90sec with the defending World Cup holder, Petra Kronberger, from Austria, who was second after the first leg, fourth in 1min 45.39sec.

Kronberger retains a slim lead over Schneider in the World Cup overall standings.

"I'm so relieved it's all over, but I was really relaxed on the way down," Coberger said.

Coyer gave ample proof of her potential by placing third in a slalom in Schruns on Sunday.

The Christchurch skier,

who has been racing in Europe for six years, started 22nd in the first leg to take fourth place and then skied a flawless second leg that was nearly half a second faster than Schneider's.

Schneider, the 1988 Olympic slalom and giant slalom gold medal winner, said she was pleased with second place after dropping out of the slalom in Schruns on Sunday.

"Now Schruns is completely forgotten and I shall concentrate on Wednesday's [today's] giant slalom," she said.

"Coyer was a surprise, but she ran a perfect race."

Parisien, the winner last year of a giant slalom in Waterville, New Hampshire, said her third place was timely with the Winter Olympic Games coming up in Albertville next month.

"I got two fifth places this

season and I'm improving," she said.

Parisien said the hard compact Baerenthal course was ideal.

"The hill is perfect, the snow is great and it was great for me," she said. "You could get a good grip on it. It was a good course for Coberger who, like myself, likes this kind of hard snow."

Yesterday's slalom replaced a race called off in Oberstaufen, Germany, earlier this month. (Reuters)

RESULTS: TD = 1. A Coberger (NZL) 1min 44.59sec; 2. V Schneider (SUI) 1min 44.71sec; 3. J Parisien (USA) 1min 44.90sec; 4. P Kronberger (Austria) 1min 45.39sec; 5. D. von Gundelfingen (Switzerland) 1min 45.40sec; 6. S. Coyer (Canada) 1min 45.41sec; 7. E. Eder (Austria) 1min 45.52sec; 8. K. Suder (Austria) 1min 45.63sec; 9. B. Fernandes (Portugal) 1min 45.64sec.

WORLD CUP POSITIONS: Slalom: 1. Ochoa, 274pts; 2. Schneider, 262; 3. Kronberger, 185; 4. Coberger, 165; 5. Parisien, 151; 6. Gundelfingen, 142; 2. Schneider, 403; 3. Kronberger (Gru), 412; 4. G. Gittler (Austria), 407; 5. H. Zarzinge (Switzerland), 361.

## Scott is dismissed by Cardiff

BY A CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Scott, dismissed yesterday as manager of Cardiff rugby union club, has become the latest in a growing list of off-the-field casualties in Welsh rugby.

The former captain of England, who had been in the job two seasons, was dismissed after the club committee had taken into account a letter from Cardiff's captain, David Evans, critical of Scott's role and function. Evans suggested Scott's "laid-back attitude" and the fact that the players found it hard to get on with him were sufficient reasons for his departure.

Scott's dismissal is the latest incident in bitter wranglings at the club. A month ago Alan Phillips resigned as coach and a series of poor results since have plunged Cardiff to the lower

reaches of the Heineken League.

Scott says he is going to delay any comment or reaction until after he thinks things over. "If things go wrong, there's always a danger someone will become a scapegoat," he said. "When a finger is pointed, it's easy to stop at one place."

"All I hope is that this decision to release me is done for the best interests of the club. They have talked about the structure not being right. We must wait and see. I don't know what I'm going to do now."

"I used to ask myself why so few ex-players took up senior posts in clubs when they finished playing. Maybe I know that answer now."

Cardiff insist the dismissal of Scott was not a personally issue. "We have ended the position of team manager,

that's all," the club secretary, John Nelson, said. "John remains as a member of the club committee."

The reason for the termination of the job is that the committee are disappointed with performances this season and that the position of team manager hasn't assisted the results.

There are a number of clubs who have tried team managers and this system hasn't worked.

"Cardiff is one of those clubs where the captain has always been a very important person and we want to return to that system. Quite simply we want to improve performances on the field."

Cardiff insist the dismissal of Scott was not a personally issue. "We have ended the position of team manager,

the chance to see the game depicted at an exhibition of paintings by the Surrey artist, Gareth Ball, which is being staged until January 24 at the Rugby Club in London's Halton Street.

Ball's enthusiasm for the game, sufficient for him to turn out on the wing as a student at art college, was revived by an invitation to make a painting of a match between Llanelli and Swansea last year. That was extended to the World Cup, during which he watched three matches live and constructed paintings of others from video recordings.

"To me rugby is fascinating because of the abstraction of figures in scrums and at rucks," Ball, who lives in Farnham, said. "It has a belligerent quality, although the players themselves may not realise it."

Pipe's century, page 33

## Somerset bowler is the latest in a long line

By RICHARD STREETON

English-born Reginald Wood was playing for Victoria and he was included in the second Test at Sydney.

In modern times, the most dramatic accident to necessitate a replacement on tour came in Barbados in 1967-8 when Fred Titmus lost four toes on his left foot in a bathing accident. Titmus had two toes severed by a motor boat propeller and two more had to be amputated in hospital.

Tony Lock, travelling from Perth, Western Australia, replaced Titmus and since the growth of air travel after the second world war, tour replacements have become relatively frequent.

The first of several cases, though, of a great batsman being immediately success-

ful when called up, came in 1907-8.

George Gunn of Nottinghamshire, was wintering in Australia for health reasons and when A. O. Jones, the MCC captain, was ill with

pneumonia, Gunn made 119 and 74, top score in each innings, in the first Test at Sydney.

Gunn was preferred to Jack Hobbs — on his first tour — who was made twelfth man.

Among those flown out of an English winter as replacements to make centuries within a day or two of arriving have been Len Hutton and Colin Cowdrey, while Colin Milburn scored a Test hundred at Karachi in 1963-4 after being sent for from Australia.

Hutton made 138 for MCC against British Guiana in 1947-8; Cowdrey scored 107 against India in the third Test at Calcutta in 1963-4. Cowdrey and Peter Parfitt reinforced what, for a few days, was possibly the

most stricken England touring side in history. Before Cowdrey and Parfitt reached India, the injuries and stomach problems suffered by the touring players almost led to Henry Blofeld, the journalist and broadcaster, winning a cap.

At breakfast before the second Test began in Bombay it seemed unlikely that England would be able to raise 11 established players. They just managed to 'do so', though Micky Stewart, now the England team manager, decided to deputise at tea-time on the first day and took no further part in the match. Blofeld had won a Cambridge Blue four years earlier.

Len Parks, who had been coaching in Trinidad, scored

## Coral backs Sunday racing

By RICHARD EVANS  
RACING CORRESPONDENT

CORAL, one of the "big three" off-course bookmakers, yesterday broke ranks with its rivals by enthusiastically welcoming the Jockey Club's plans for Sunday racing.

Peter Sherlock, the company's chairman and chief executive, said: "It demonstrates the sort of initiative this industry desperately needs if it is to transform itself and advance into the future."

Although he recognised the potential problem of illegal betting, he insisted racegoers should be given the opportunity to test Sunday racing. If it proved popular, a strong case could be made to the government to allow betting shops to open on Sunday and have on-course betting.

Not for the first time, Sherlock's comments are in marked contrast to the negative reaction from Ladbrokes, William Hill and the Betting Office Licensees' Association, the big bookmakers' trade body. They insist there should be no Sunday racing without a change in the betting laws.

Sherlock said: "I don't really understand why they play this negative role, except that they have always done so. They have said 'no' Sunday racing without Sunday betting, but that's tackling the problem the wrong way round. We should get Sunday racing and then argue the case for Sunday betting. The chance of getting the two simultaneously is nil."

In the short term, Sherlock believes an expansion in credit and deposit account betting would help on Sundays.

He added: "Because we will have to provide early morning prices and there will be no opportunity for a starting price market to be formed, the Jockey Club has to make sure good quality racing is saged on Sunday; otherwise we will never get a decent book together. We don't want any matches or four-horse races where only one is trying."

Len Cowburn, the deputy chairman of William Hill, reflected the traditionalist view among the big High Street betting chains by regarding the lack of consultation before the Jockey Club announced its Sunday racing plans. Although he favoured deregulation, "betting in licensed shops and on course must coincide with any racing".

"I can't see there